LADY
MITSUKO

YAMATO WAKI'S SELECTION WORK

5

POCKET COMIC

LADY MITSUKO

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I NEVER KNOW THE TEARS OF MITSUKO, THE PRINCESS OF LIGHT, THE PRINCESS OF SUN, THE PRINCESS OF LEO...*

I WALK AS A PRINCESS, FULL OF CONFIDENCE,

I AM LED BY THE COMPASS CALLED LOVE,

WHEN I TRAVEL TO THE UNKNOWN COUNTRY... WHEN I AM ON THE LONELY SEA...

*Zodiac

LADY MITSUKO

CHAPTER 1 THE GIRL WHO CATCHES THE STAR

AUSTRIA, 1859

ON THE SAME YEAR, FROM THE COUDENHOVE FAMILY, A LITTLE BOY WAS BORN.

THE COUDENHOVE FAMILY WAS THE FIRST FOLLOWER OF THE HABSBURG FAMILY, WHO RULED OVER AUSTRIA, AND WHOM THE FEMALE EMPEROR, MARIA TERESSA HAD BEEN BORN FROM.

HIS NAME IS COUNT HEINRICH COUDENHOVE KALERGI.

HE WAS ASSIGNED AS THE AMBASSADOR FOR THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EMPIRE IN JAPAN.

AND AFTER HE FINISHED HIS MILITARY DUTY,

THIS HANDSOME AND SMART BOY, GAINED KNOWLEDGE AT THERESHIAM ACADEMY.

AND IN THE YEAR OF 1874, FOLLOWING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN JAPAN...

A THIRD DAUGHTER WAS BORN TO THE AOYAMA FAMILY, WHO OWNED AN ANTIQUE STORE IN THE USHIGOME STORAGE AREA OF TOKYO.

Waaaaa!!

Waaaaa!!

ANTIQUE STORE

OH, MY! HOW BEAUTIFUL THIS BABY IS.

THERE'S A BEAUTY SPOT ON HER PALM...

PLUS, LOOK AT THIS!

THIS BABY WAS BORN HOLDING A STAR IN HER HAND.

SHE IS DESTINED FOR GREAT THINGS IN HER LIFE.

I HAVE SEEN MANY BABIES IN MY LIFE, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE SEEN WITH SUCH A CLEAR FACE.

THIS MUST BE THE BABY WHO IS DESTINED TO BECOME A PRINCESS.

*Chonmage = The male Japanese's hairstyle with a little topknot in the front (above the forehead).

NO ONE STYLES THEIR HAIR IN A CHONMAGE NOWADAYS.

BY THE WAY, DEAR. I SUGGEST THAT YOU CUT OFF YOUR CHONMAGE*.

WHATEVER! I CAN DO ANYTHING I WANT TO.

HOW ABOUT MITSU, FOR SHE'S OUR THIRD DAUGHTER?

WHAT IS A GOOD NAME?

WHAT SHOULD WE NAME HER?

HO HO, I AGREE, DEAR.

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THIS CHILD IS ONLY THE DAUGHTER OF AN ANTIQUE STORE OWNER.

I'LL BE CONTENT AS LONG AS SHE GROWS TO BE AN HONEST AND GENTLE WOMAN.

AOYAMA MITSUKO.

A PRINCESS WAS BORN, HOLDING A STAR IN HER HAND.

ON JULY 25TH, IN THE 7TH YEAR OF THE MEIJI ERA, WHEN THE SUN SURROUNDED THE TOWER OF FIRE IN THE MORNING...

EARLY SPRING, 1892

NOW IT IS TIME FOR ME TO RETURN HOME AND LEARN HOW TO BE A GOOD BRIDE.

IT'S BECAUSE MY FATHER SAID THAT I'VE LEARNED ENOUGH GOOD MANNERS AT THIS SCHOOL.

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'LL BE LEAVING IN THE SPRING, MITSUKO?

IF YOU'RE NOT HERE, WE'LL BE LONELY.

NO, NOT EXACTLY.

ALTHOUGH MY FATHER HAS BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT.

DO YOU HAVE A FIANCÉ ALREADY?

WOW. SO YOU'LL BE MARRIED SOON?

BESIDES, I'M FAIRLY TALL.

HAHA. I WOULD DEFINITELY REFUSE.

IT'S TOO BAD. IF YOU STAY HERE FOR ANOTHER ONE OR TWO YEARS, YOU COULD BE PROPOSED TO BY A NOBLE OR A KNIGHT...

THAT'S TRUE.

ANTIQUE STORE

YEAH, HOW FUNNY...

Aha ha ha ha!
Aha ha ha ha!

I'M HOME.

OH, WELCOME BACK.

IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FIND A MAN WHO MATCHES MY HEIGHT.

YOU'VE GOT A GOOD POINT!

SO MAYBE YOU'LL HAVE TO MARRY A WESTERN MAN...

THAT'S WHAT YOU ALWAYS THINK, FATHER.

WELL OF COURSE. YOU'RE ALREADY 18. IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU WERE MARRIED.

IF YOU KEEP ACTING THAT WAY, NO ONE WILL EVER PROPOSE TO YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MITSUKO? IT'S NOT APPROPRIATE!

HAVE A GOOD NIGHT...

DEAR, BRING ME THE PROPOSAL STATEMENT FROM YESTERDAY!

MITSUKO DISMISSED HERSELF AWHILE AGO.

DEAR.

MR. MARUKOSHI IS...

MY DREAM, MY DESIRE... THAT HASN'T BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

DON'T YOU AGREE WITH ME, MIYA?

DAD AND MOM ARE SO FUSSY.

THAT KID!

SHE'S A WOMAN. YET SHE'S SO STUBBORN. WHO DID SHE INHERIT THAT FROM?

I'M NOT YET READY TO BE PROPOSED TO.

WHAT MAKES ME FEEL THIS WAY?

WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR?

THE DESIRE THAT I AM WILLING TO DIE FOR... IS IT A SIN?

TSUNE, PLEASE BREAK UP THE ICE ON THE GROUND SO THE GUESTS WILL NOT SLIP AND FALL.

YES, MA'AM

HOW COLD!

IT'S MARCH ALREADY. BUT IT'S STILL FREEZING.

THE WATER WE THREW OUTSIDE HAS ALREADY FROZEN SOLID!

Tap Tap

Tap Tap

Tap Tap

Tap

Tap

Tap

WHAT A BOTHER. I'M BUSY ENOUGH ALREADY!

HIS HAIR IS INDEED BLOND!

WAA. A REAL FOREIGNER!

THAT'S A FOREIGNER!

NEIGH

BUT I NEVER THOUGHT THAT THE COUNT WOULD BE SO INTERESTED IN IT.

I HEARD THAT THERE'S A GOOD ANTIQUE STORE ON THE CORNER OF THIS ROAD.

HAVING SO MUCH INTEREST IN JAPAN'S CULTURE...

MY COUNT!

SLIP

SLIP

WATCH OUT!

OJOU-SAMA...

PLEASE DON'T GET CLOSER. OJOU-SAMA. HE'S A FOREIGNER!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!? THIS IS A SERIOUS MATTER!

IT'S NOT GOOD FOR A MAIDEN TO BE SEEN BY A FOREIGNER.

SIR. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

MY COUNT!

COUNT!

UKH!

PLEASE, HOLD ONTO MY SHOULDER.

CAN YOU WALK? WE'RE GOING TO THE STORE...

UKH!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?

PLEASE CALL A DOCTOR AND PREPARE A BED.

OJOU-SAMA, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

ARE YOU STILL HURT, MY COUNT?

WE'RE DEEPLY SORRY, BUT PLEASE ALLOW THE COUNT TO REST HERE FOR A WHILE.

THIS MAN IS OUR GUEST, AFTER ALL.

DONT WORRY ABOUT ME!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

MY COUNT..

UKH!

EH? YOU MEAN MITSUKO?

WE'RE THE ONES WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR BEING SUCH A BOTHER TO THE LADY HERE.

WE APOLOGIZE THAT OUR EMPLOYEE DID NOT DO HIS JOB PROPERLY.

I'M THE HEAD OF THIS HOUSE.

SO HER NAME IS MITSUKO..

MITSUKO..

OH. DONT WORRY ABOUT IT! WE'RE LUCKY. THE COUNT'S JUST GOT A SLIGHT SPRAIN.

HAHA. NOW SHE'S EMBARRASSED.

I WAS JUST WORRIED THAT HE WAS INJURED!

IT WAS NOTHING!

BUT I WAS SURPRISED BY MITSUKO!

OH. YOU MEAN WHAT SHE DID FOR THAT FOREIGNER?

I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT.. HE IS A GREAT MAN!

IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, HE'S AN AMBASSADOR FOR ONE COUNTRY.

SHE WENT TO KOYOKAN, SO SHE'S USED TO FOREIGNERS.

HE WAS NOT SCARY.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I TALKED TO A FOREIGNER, BUT IT WAS NOT LIKE WHAT PEOPLE SAID..

THEY MET IN THE EARLY SPRING.

AT THAT MOMENT, MITSUKO DID NOT REALIZE WHAT A GREAT IMPACT THAT MEETING WOULD HAVE ON HER FUTURE.

HIS EYES ARE DEEP AND GENTLE, LIKE A SPRING.

HIS GOLDEN, CURLY HAIR IS JUST LIKE THE WAVE BENEATH A SUNSET...

I'VE BEEN THINKING. THIS EMBASSY BUILDING FEELS SO DRY WITHOUT A WOMAN.

COUNT. I'VE BROUGHT YOUR TEA.

THANK YOU.

I FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE LIKE THIS.

REALLY? I'M USED TO IT

BEFORE WE CAME TO JAPAN. DIDN'T WE LIVE SUCH A LIFE TOO?

WOW. YOU EVEN REMEMBERED HER NAME.

YOU MEAN... LADY MITSUKO?

I'VE GOT AN IDEA! DO YOU REMEMBER THE LADY AT THE ANTIQUE STORE WE VISITED YESTERDAY?

SHE IS SUCH A CHEERFUL AND KIND GIRL. I'M SURE SHE COULD DRAW YOU AWAY FROM ALL THAT WORK. .

HOW ABOUT IF WE CALLED HER TO COME HERE?

ALTHOUGH YOU CAME HERE AS THE AMBASSADOR YOU'RE STILL YOUNG. DON'T USE YOUR TIME FOR WORK ONLY.

I'LL GO ASK THEM TOMORROW.

DON'T WORRY; I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING.

BUT...

I MEANT... LADY WILL STILL BE STAYING AT THIS HOUSE. I JUST ASKED HER TO COME EVERYDAY TO THE EMBASSY TO HELP A LITTLE...

I WON'T LET ONE OF MY DAUGHTERS BE THE VICTIM OF A FALSE MARRIAGE!

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!

WHAT DID YOU SAY!?

YOU WANT ME TO HAND MITSUKO OVER TO THE EMBASSY?

I AM BEGGING FOR THIS. SINCE WE HAVE A LOT OF THINGS TO DO. AND WE CAN'T HANDLE THEM OURSELVES.

N... NOT THAT! YOU COMPLETELY MISUNDERSTOOD. SIR!

PLEASE CONSIDER IT MY LADY.

MITSUKO. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

BUT...

HM...

I DO NOT KNOW IF A PERSON LIKE ME COULD BE OF MUCH HELP. BUT ..

I SEE.

NOW. THAT'S A TYPICAL SON OF EDO!

BESIDES. I'LL BE AT HOME EVERY EVENING.

SO YOU AGREE. FATHER?

HM... I'VE GOT YOUR POINT...

HE LIVES ALONE AS A FOREIGNER IN THIS COUNTRY

DON'T YOU PITY HIM?

FATHER. THINK ABOUT THIS.

MITSUKO!

OH. SO THIS WAS ALL I WAS CALLED TO DO .

I THOUGHT I WOULD BE DOING SOME CHORES. SUCH AS WASHING THE DISHES. SWEEPING THE FLOOR. ETC...

THE SPRING OF MITSUKO'S 18TH YEAR...

WAS THE FIRST TIME SHE MADE A DECISION ABOUT WHAT WAS BEST FOR HERSELF.

THOSE THINGS WILL BE DONE BY THE OTHER SERVANTS.

I WON'T LET A LADY. SUCH AS YOURSELF. DO SUCH THINGS.

EXCUSE ME. CAN YOU HELP ME MOVE THIS DESK OVER THERE?

EH?

OH. OKAY.

LADY MITSUKO...?

IN THAT CASE...

SRRT

BUT IF IT'S ONLY FOR MAKING TEA OR ARRANGING FLOWERS. I DON'T DESERVE ANY PAYMENT FROM YOU.

MEANWHILE. I THINK THIS ROOM IS KIND OF DIRTY...

THERE'S A SPIDER WEB IN HERE...

AH. PLEASE ORGANIZE THESE BOOKS!

GRRRTK

GRRRTK

GRTK

AH. MY COUNT. DON'T DO IT!

LET ME DO IT FOR YOU!

I NEVER KNEW THAT OUR ROOM WAS THAT DIRTY.

clean...

IN THE END

YOU TWO MUST BE TIRED. SO I'VE PREPARED SOME TEA.

IF THE ROOM IS CLEAN, IT WILL BE MORE COMFORTABLE TO WORK IN. DON'T YOU THINK?

I FORGOT TO CLEAN MYSELF!

AH!

IT WOULD BE AN HONOR.

YE... YES. MY COUNT

LADY MITSUKO. EVER SINCE YOU CAME TO THIS EMBASSY, I HAVE BEEN MORE RELAXED.

OH. NO. LADY MITSUKO...

I WON!

YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO PUT A BISHOP OVER THERE...

THEREFORE, I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND COMING HERE EVERYDAY

OH, MY COUNT AND LADY MITSUKO...

Ah ha ha ha Ha ha ha

IT WAS THE RIGHT DECISION TO CALL LADY MITSUKO HERE, AFTER ALL.

AT LEAST, MY COUNT IS ABLE TO FORGET WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST...

MITSUKO!

SO YOU'RE STILL WORKING AT THE EMBASSY?

WHAT'S WRONG, FATHER?

WHAT'S WRONG? FOR ONE THING, THE LANGUAGES ARE DIFFERENT!

DON'T WORRY THE COUNT IS FLUENT IN JAPANESE!

I'M LEARNING SOME ENGLISH AND GERMAN AT THE TSUKIJI CHURCH TOO.

IT'S INTERESTING BECAUSE I'VE LEARNED A LOT ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES.

AND. WHAT'S INTERESTING ABOUT IT?

I'M STILL WORRIED. THOUGH.

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING. DEAR?

WHY DOES SHE HAVE TO LEARN THOSE THINGS?

THE PEOPLE IN EUROPE HOLD A PRINCIPLE TO HAVE ONE HUSBAND AND ONE WIFE. SO THE HUSBAND IS PROHIBITED FROM HAVING TWO WIVES.

FOR EXAMPLE. FATHER!

SPOOSH

AND THEY ALSO RESPECT THE WOMEN.

MITSUKO WILL NOT DO SUCH A THING!

DEAR!

THAT FOREIGNER IS A MAN. AFTER ALL. IF SOMETHING HAPPENS...

I KNOW THAT. BUT...

AH. LOOK. A NIGHTINGALE.

AH. THIS CHERRY-BLOSSOM IS ALMOST IN BLOOM.

MAYBE IT WILL BLOSSOM TOMORROW

IT SEEMS AS IF HE WANTS TO RUN AWAY...

SOMETIMES HIS GAZE IS REACHING FAR, FAR AWAY...

IS HE THINKING ABOUT HIS HOMETOWN?

BUT WHEN APRIL COMES. THE TREES WILL BE FILLED WITH BLOOMING FLOWERS AND THERE WILL BE A CROCUS BLOOMING ON THE POND...

IS THE SPRING IN YOUR COUNTRY SIMILAR TO THE ONE IN JAPAN?

UNTIL MARCH. AUSTRIA IS STILL COVERED BY THE SNOW.

AH. SORRY. I WAS DAY-DREAMING.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

MANY PEOPLE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE HUNTING EVENT...

WE CAN HEAR THE SOUND OF THE FLUTE CALLING EVERYWHERE...

MY FATHER ALSO LIKES TO GO HUNTING AT THE CATTENSCHEIM PALACE.

COUNT HEINRICH!

OUTSIDE THE WINDOW..

LADY MARY IS OUTSIDE THE WINDOW...

COUNT!

HIS EYES ARE SO DARKENED AND SAD...

I'M SORRY I DON'T FEEL WELL

WHY?

HE NEVER EVEN SAYS "I WANT TO RETURN TO MY COUNTRY"

WHY DOES THE COUNT ALWAYS AVOID CONVERSATIONS ABOUT HIS HOMETOWN?

AND WISH TO RETURN TO THIS BELOVED COUNTRY...

IF I EVER LIVED ON MY OWN IN ANOTHER COUNTRY I WOULD SURELY MISS JAPAN...

DID YOU FIND SOME GOOD BOOKS?

HE'S BACK TO NORMAL.

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT NOW? YOU LOOK SO SERIOUS.

THAT'S WHY I WISH THAT I COULD CHEER HIM UP A LITTLE!

BUT IT'S NOT EASY!

COUNT!

YOU'RE MUCH PRETTIER THAN THEM.

DON'T YOU REALIZE IT?

BLACK HAIR, BLACK EYES, AND AN ELEGANT CREAMY LIKE SKIN TONE.

THAT ALL OF THOSE WILL MAKE PEOPLE FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU.

YES. I FOUND THIS BOOK WHEN I TRIED TO ORGANIZE THE ROOM.

THEY LOOK BEAUTIFUL!

DO ALL THE WOMEN IN EUROPE WEAR THESE KINDS OF DRESSES?

BECAUSE OF MY HEIGHT?

IT'S TRUE. YOU ARE MUCH BETTER THAN THOSE EUROPEAN WOMEN.

MY COUNT!

IN THAT CASE... MAYBE I CAN BE YOUR MATCH.

THAT'S ENOUGH! YOU ALWAYS MAKE FUN OF ME! I HATE YOU!

YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY ANYTHING. EVEN MY FATHER TOLD ME THAT MY FIANCÉ HAS TO BE TALLER THAN ME.

MITSUKO..

DON'T SAY...

SUCH A RIDICULOUS THING!

MY COUNT...

AN SUCH AN IDIOT

AH...

JUST GET BACK TO WORK!

ENOUGH! DON'T THINK ABOUT IT ANYMORE!

IF THE COUNT KNEW WHAT I WAS THINKING EARLIER, HE WOULD LAUGH AT ME.

IS THIS FOR ME?

EH?

THE DAUGHTER OF AN ANTIQUE STORE OWNER WITH A FOREIGN COUNT!

AH. THIS DRESS IS SO PRETTY..

I AM SURE THAT YOU'LL LOOK LOVELY WEARING THIS. JUST LIKE THOSE EUROPEAN WOMEN.

I ORDERED IT TO SHOW YOU THAT I AM NOT A LIAR.

AH.. IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE I'VE FELT SUCH HAPPINESS...

PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT WHILE I CHANGE.

WAIT A MOMENT, HEINRICH!

I NEED MORE TIME. SINCE SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MY COMB.

A HAPPY MOMENT,

WHEN I WAS WAITING FOR MY LOVER TO DRESS HERSELF UP!

Cveeeak

ARE YOU DONE? HOW IS IT? I DIDN'T LIE, DID I?

MARY!

MITSUKO
....

MITSUKO
....

HM... DON'T YOU THINK IT'S WEIRD?

IT'S MY FIRST TIME WEARING THIS. SO I'M NOT SURE IF I PUT IT ON CORRECTLY.

THIS IS AN ENDLESS DREAM IN WHICH TIME IS FROZEN FOREVER

BUMP

MY COUNT!

MY HEART HURTS

MY COUNT...

I LOVE YOU...!

WHY DID I LEAVE MY HOMETOWN AND COME TO JAPAN?

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

WAS IT NOT TO FORGET WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN THE PAST?

WHY D D IT FEEL WARM?

BUT WHY WAS MY HEART POUNDING?

BUT IT HAS BEEN AWAKENED BY A SMALL, GENTLE HAND.

MY HEART HAS BEEN BURIED ALONG WITH MY MEMORIES OF THE PAST.

MITSUKO. WHAT'S WRONG? YOU ARE JUST SITTING THERE DOING NOTHING.

I NEED TO LIVE ONCE AGAIN.

TO LIVE A NEW LIFE.

BUT YOUR FACE DOESN'T LOOK THAT WAY.

AH. IT'S NOTHING.

PROPOSAL?

MITSUKO... YOUR FATHER SAID THAT HE WOULD ARRANGE YOUR PROPOSAL SOON.

WHAT WILL YOU DO IF A BAD RUMOR SPREADS BEFORE YOU EVEN GET MARRIED?

WHY, MOTHER? DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT I WAS GOING TO REFUSE IT?

MOTHER!

NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, IT'S NOT GOOD FOR A MAIDEN LIKE YOU TO GO IN AND OUT OF THAT FOREIGNER'S PLACE.

THIS IS UNUSUAL. WHY ARE YOU BEING SO STUBBORN ABOUT THIS?

MITSUKO...

THE COUNT IS NOT THAT KIND OF PERSON!

HE'S SO KIND AND GENTLE!

THAT'S TRUE. SOMEDAY, HE WILL CROSS THE SEA AND RETURN TO WHERE HE BELONGS...

RETURN TO EUROPE

I DON'T WANT HIM TO KNOW MY FEELINGS...

EVEN THOUGH THE COUNT IS A NICE PERSON, IT DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU CAN GO IN AND OUT OF HIS PLACE EVERYDAY.

...

PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THAT!

WE WILL CONTINUE THIS PROPOSAL.

ONE DAY HE WILL CERTAINLY RETURN TO HIS COUNTRY.

IF I STAY HERE, SOMEDAY, I WON'T BE ABLE TO CONTROL MY FEELINGS ANYMORE...

I'LL STOP WORKING AT THE EMBASSY...

IF IT'S POSSIBLE ...

I WANT TO STOP THIS FEELING AND DESIRE...

MITSUKO...

I HEARD THAT YOU RECEIVED A PROPOSAL?

WHY IS THAT?

I HEARD THAT YOU'RE PLANNING TO STOP WORKING HERE.

IS THAT TRUE?

I... I...

IT'S NOT THAT...

DO I STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO STEAL YOUR HEART?

MITSUKO.

WE COME FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

EVEN IF YOU GAVE ME PERMISSION TO MARRY YOU,

THE MARRIAGE ITSELF WOULD BE OPPOSED BY BOTH OUR FAMILIES.

BUT BEFORE THAT, I STILL NEED TO GET YOUR PERMISSION.

MY COUNT!

A LONG TIME AGO, WHEN I WAS STILL A STUDENT AT THERESHIAM ACADEMY.

I FELL IN LOVE ONCE.

TELL ME... ANYTHING...

HE WANTED TO FORGET... AND IT SEEMS LIKE HE VERY NEARLY HAS.

I LOST TO OUR CIRCUMSTANCES AND COULDN'T MAKE HER HAPPY...

I WAS SO SAD... AND I DECIDED TO LEAVE EUROPE TO FORGET ABOUT IT...

WE LOVED EACH OTHER SO DEEPLY...

BUT MY FAMILY DID NOT WANT TO ACCEPT MY PROPOSAL TO MARRY HER.

IT WAS BECAUSE SHE WAS NOT FROM A NOBLE FAMILY.

I MADE HER SUFFER. AND FELT THAT MY LIFE WAS NOT VALUABLE ANYMORE.

BUT THEN I MET YOU.

MY COUNT...

WILL YOU ALLOW ME TO LIVE ONE MORE TIME?

I LOVE YOU, MITSUKO...

ENOUGH.

DON'T SAY ANYTHING ANYMORE..

MITSUKO... HER BLACK EYES, HER ELEGANT FAIR SKIN,

THEY ALL GAVE ME REASONS TO LIVE.

AN ANGEL WITH SMALL, GENTLE HANDS.

IF THESE HANDS HAVE THE POWER TO LESSEN YOUR PAIN...

SHARE YOUR AGONY WITH ME.

THEN THEY WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU...

ANTIQUE

WHAT!? MARRIAGE?

I... IDIOT!

FATHER...

DEAR, CONTROL YOURSELF!

I WILL NEVER ALLOW IT! NOT NOW, NOT EVER... THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN!

LISTEN! DO NOT ALLOW MITSUKO TO STEP OUT OF THIS HOUSE EVER AGAIN!

HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN? I LET THE FOREIGNER KIDNAP MY DAUGHTER RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES!

I'VE EMBARRASSED MYSELF TO THE ANCESTORS!

Slam

AH! WHY DID WE HAVE TO BE BORN IN D'FFERENT COUNTRIES?

I DO NOT LOVE ANYONE ELSE. MY HEART IS ONLY FOR ONE PERSON...

SOB
SOB

WHY...?

MITSUKO, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

THE TRUTH IS, HE WANTS YOU TO BE HAPPY WITH SOMEONE YOU CHOOSE.

PLEASE DON'T BLAME YOUR FATHER.

I SEE HIM AS NEITHER A FOREIGNER NOR A COUNT. MOTHER.

TO ME, HE IS A KIND MAN WHO HAS SUFFERED ALL THIS TIME.

BUT LOOK AT THE FACTS! HE'S A FOREIGNER AND ALSO A COUNT

THERE ARE TOO MANY DIFFERENCES FOR YOU TO EVER BE HAPPY

MITSUKO. MAYBE YOU DON'T BELIEVE THIS. WE ALWAYS HOPE THAT YOU WILL HAVE A HAPPY LIFE.

THERE ARE NO PARENTS WHO WANT TO SEE THEIR CHILDREN SUFFER.

EVEN IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US...

MAYBE YOU DON'T BELIEVE THIS. WE ALWAYS HOPE THAT YOU WILL HAVE A HAPPY LIFE.

WARM YOURSELF AND GO TO SLEEP.

MOTHER..

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

NOW, HE GIVES HIS HAND TO ME...

HE HAS EXPERIENCED HOW SAD LOVE CAN BE AND HE HAS SUFFERED FOR THAT.

BUT MOTHER... THIS HAND...

THIS HAND HAS HELD HIS HAND.

FOR ME, HE'S NEITHER A FOREIGNER, NOR A COUNT.

WHOSE HAND'S I NEED TO HOLD ONTO.

HE'S ONLY AN ORDINARY MAN,

FATHER, MOTHER

FORGIVE YOUR DAUGHTER...

FORGIVE ME FOR LEAVING YOU ALL...

GOOD BYE, FATHER, MOTHER, AND EVERYONE AT HOME...

MITSUKO!

HEINRICH!

YOU'VE BEEN STANDING HERE ALL ALONG?

I CAN'T JUST SIT DOWN AND WAIT. I'M SO WORRIED...

HE AND MY FAMILY WILL NOT ACCEPT OUR MARRIAGE.

THIS IS THE ANSWER FROM MY FATHER.

NOW. EVEN IF I BRING YOU WITH ME...

YOU AND I CAN NEVER BE LEGALLY WED.

EVEN SO. ARE YOU WILLING TO LIVE WITH ME FOREVER?

I WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU...

FOREVER...

I...

IS THAT NOT GOOD ENOUGH?

AS LONG AS WE LOVE EACH OTHER AND DECLARE IT TO GOD.

AGAINST THE LAW, AGAINST SOCIAL STANDARDS, AND WITHOUT ANYONE'S APPROVAL...

WE WERE DESTINED TO BE TOGETHER SINCE BIRTH.

BUT WE ARE DESTINED TO BE ONE.

IT WAS A SIMPLE CEREMONY. WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF THEIR PARENTS, AND ONLY APPROVED BY THE PRIEST.

HEINRICH AND MITSUKO SWORE THAT THEIR LOVE WOULD NEVER END.

NONETHELESS, THE BRIDE, WHO WAS ONLY 18 YEARS OLD, LOOKED INNOCENT AND ABSOLUTELY RADIANT IN A DRESS OF PURE WHITE.

I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD FIND HAPPINESS AGAIN. .

LADY MITSUKO, WIFE OF COUNT HEINRICH

AT THE END OF THE YEAR, MITSUKO GAVE BIRTH TO THEIR FIRST SON, AND NAMED HIM HANS (HIS JAPANESE NAME WAS KOTARO).

THEN, IN THE YEAR OF 1894, THEIR SECOND SON WAS BORN. HIS NAME WAS RICHARD (HIS JAPANESE NAME WAS EIJIRO).

HE BECAME COUNT RICHARD COUDENHOVE KALERGI, WHO EVENTUALLY PROPOSED THE THEORY OF A UNITED EUROPE.

AH...

I WILL NEVER APPROVE OF AN AOYAMA WHO GIVES HERSELF OVER TO A FOREIGNER!

I DON'T WANT TO SEE HER FACE!

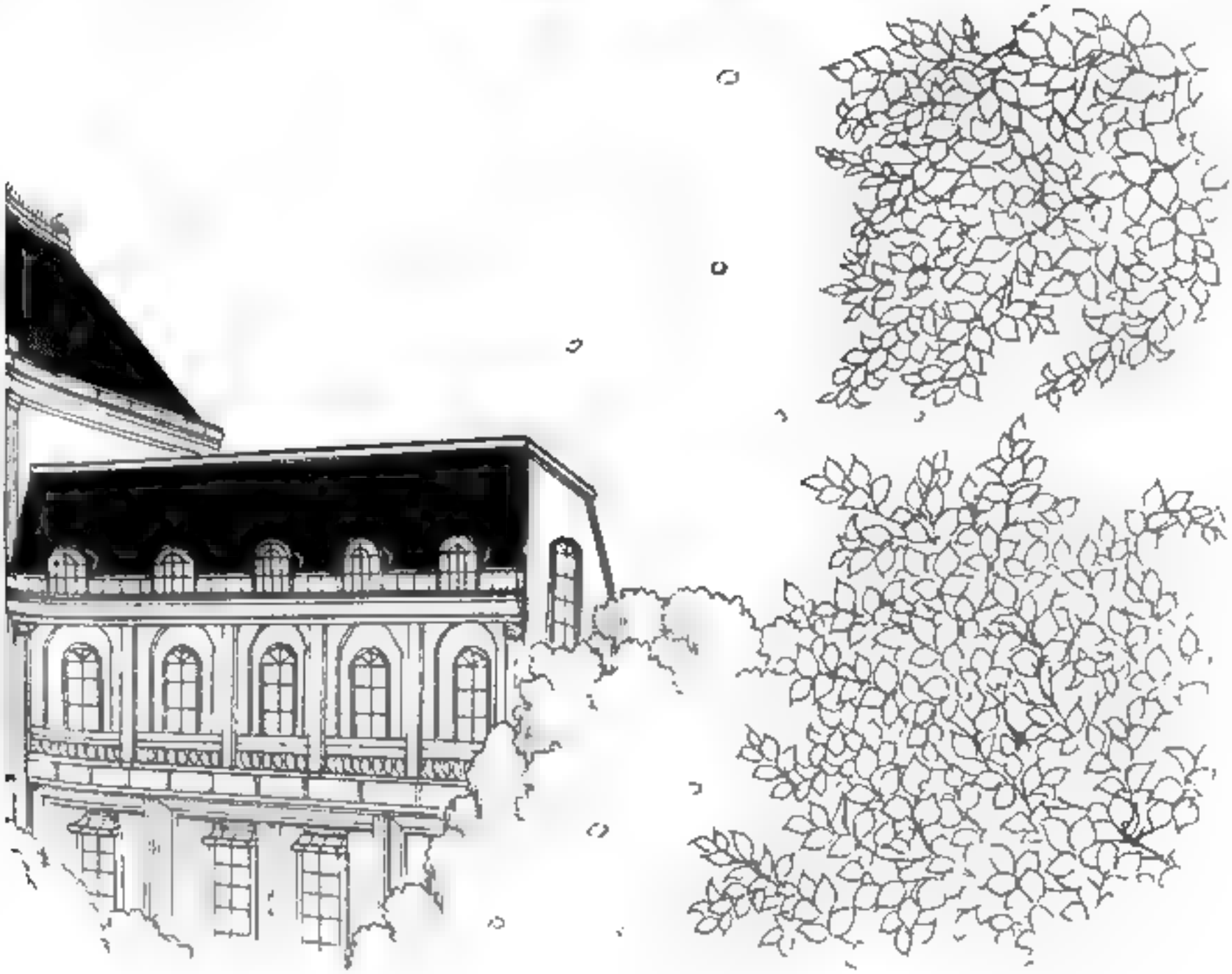
WHAT? MITSUKO IS COMING?

HOWEVER, DESPITE GIVING BIRTH TO TWO SONS, MITSUKO'S PARENTS CONTINUED TO REJECT HER MARRIAGE. THUS, SHE WAS STILL NOT THE LEGAL WIFE OF THE COUNT.

HE KNEW THAT HE COULD NEVER MARRY YOU OFFICIALLY .. HE DECEIVED MY INNOCENT DAUGHTER!

HOW EMBAR-RASSING!

FATHER...



THE BORDER BETWEEN LANDS IS NOT LAID OUT ON A MAP, OR ON THE GROUND.

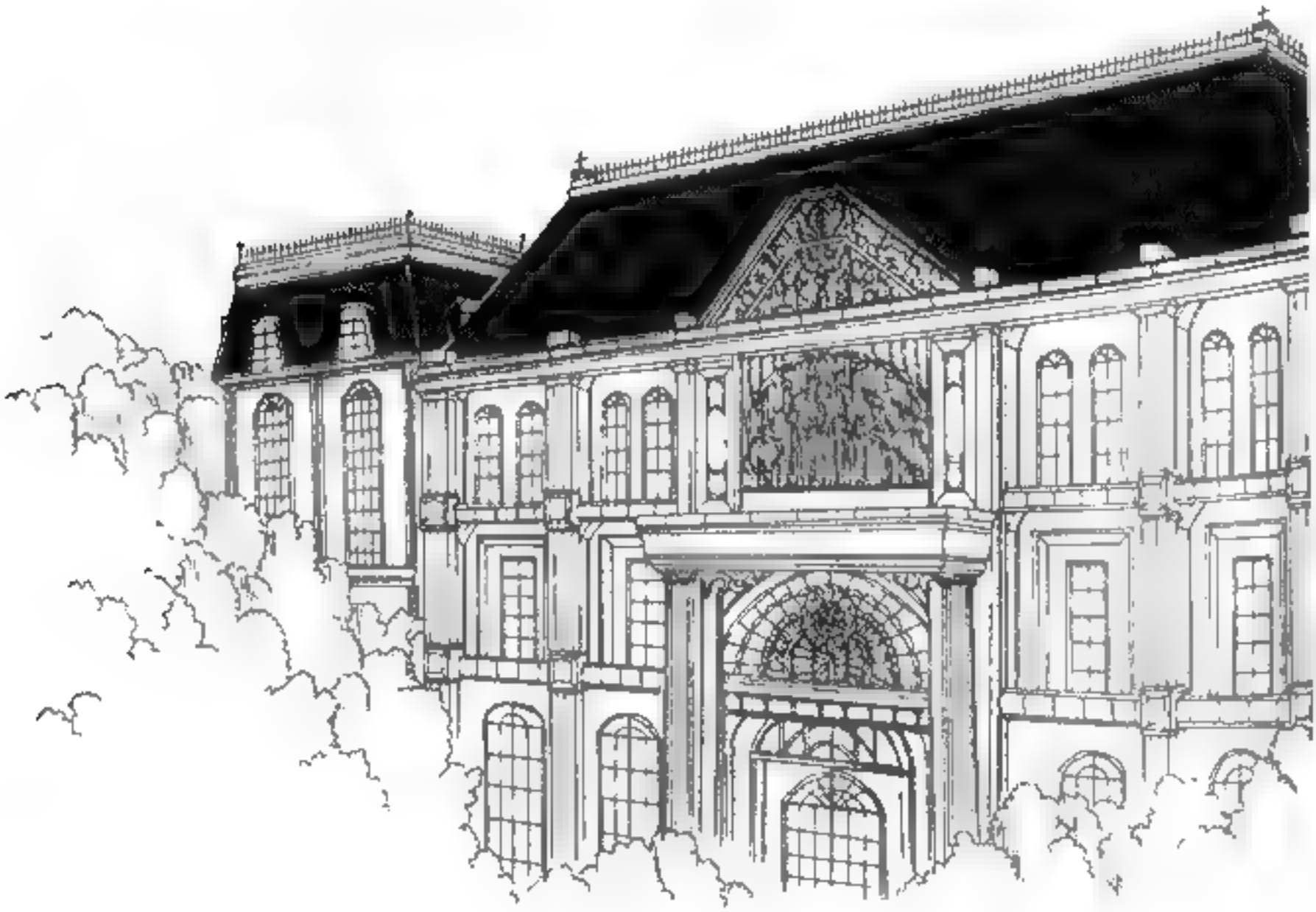
HOW S LLY! SHE KNEW THAT SHE WOULD BE LEFT BEHIND F THE COUNT WENT BACK TO HIS COUNTRY SOMEDAY...

I HOPE FATHER IS ALWAYS WELL

I'LL EXCUSE MYSELF. THEN

WELCOME BACK!

IT IS ETCHED INTO THE FIBRES OF THE HUMAN HEART



I AM VERY WELL. MY COUNT.

HOW ARE YOU DOING, MY LADY?

Ah ha ha! ha ha ha!

DON'T BE MAD. BUT THE FACT IS THAT EUROPEANS STILL LOOK DOWN ON ASIANS.

THEY SAID THAT MY MARRIAGE WITH A JAPANESE WOMAN WILL NOT BE A SUCCESS.

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN AT THE CONSULATE TODAY?

YES. SOMETHING UGLY HAPPENED.

THEN, REGARDLESS OF HOW MANY THERE ARE, I WILL ASK EACH TO DUEL WITH ME.

IF THERE ARE ANY EUROPEANS WHO THINK MY WIFE TO BE BENEATH THEM.

DO YOU THINK I AM NOT QUALIFIED AS YOUR HUSBAND?

REALLY? THEN. WHAT DID YOU SAY TO THEM?

COME ON. YOU KNOW WHAT MY ANSWER WAS.

EVEN THOUGH I'M FROM A DIFFERENT COUNTRY, EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT HIS LEGAL WIFE,

IS THERE ANY WIFE WHO IS AS HAPPY AS I AM?

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

DEAR!

AH, DEAR.

OOPS. WATCH OUT. THE TEA!

COUNT HEINRICH COUDENHOVE KALERGI.

YOUR FATHER HAS PASSED AWAY, AND THE FAMILY HAS COMMANDED YOU TO RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

SIR, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM YOUR COUNTRY HAS ARRIVED.

MY FATHER...

RETURN... RETURN TO EUROPE...

MITSUKO!

THIS IS THE LAST WILL OF YOUR FATHER. HE ASKED YOU TO RETURN AND INHERIT ALL HIS TERRITORY.

DEAR...

WE HAVE TO BE APART NOW.

MITSUKO!

BUT ALTHOUGH IT WAS ONLY FOR A SHORT TIME. I'M HAPPY.

I AM FINE. BECAUSE I KNEW THAT SOMEDAY. OUR RELATIONSHIP WOULD COME TO AN END.

SLAM!!

HEIN-RICH!?

PLEASE INFORM ALL OF MY RELATIVES..

I WILL REFUSE TO RETURN AND INHERIT THE TERRITORY

AS LONG AS THEY DO NOT APPROVE OF MITSUKO AS MY LEGAL WIFE.

COUNT...

AT FIRST, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FINE IF YOU STAYED IN JAPAN.

BUT I CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOU HERE BY YOURSELF.

HEINRICH...

I WAS WORRIED THAT THE COUNT WOULD LEAVE YOU IN JAPAN.

I NEVER IMAGINED THAT HE WOULD ACTUALLY BRING YOU WITH HIM.

ON THAT DAY, THAT COMMON-BORN GIRL BECAME A NOBLE. LADY MITSUKO COUDENHOVE KALERGI.

THUS, THIS GIRL, WHO WAS BORN IN TOKYO, WAS FINALLY ABLE TO GRASP THE STAR IN HER HAND.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, MITSUKO RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM HER PARENTS,

AND HAD HER MARRIAGE LEGALLY RECOG-NIZED.

WITH HER BLACK HAIR AND EYES, AS WELL AS HER ELEGANT FAIR SKIN TONE, SHE LOOKED EXQUISITE.

ALL OF THE REPRESENTATIVES CAME TO RESPECT THE ELEGANCE OF THE COUNT'S LADY, WHO WAS ONLY 21 YEARS OF AGE.

FOR DAYS AFTER, MITSUKO WAS ALLOWED TO ATTEND OFFICIAL EVENTS AS THE COUNT'S LEGAL WIFE.

CLOSE TO HER DEPARTURE, MITSUKO VISITED THE PALACE AND RECEIVED A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN.

SHE WAS TOLD THAT, ALTHOUGH SHE WAS GOING TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY, SHE MUST TRY HER BEST TO STAY TRUE TO HER HERITAGE.

MITSUKO, WHO WAS WEARING A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE KIMONO, TOOK THE MESSAGE DEEPLY TO HEART.

JANUARY 1896

KOTARO... EIJIRO...

MOTHER WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU.

THERE'S A LETTER HERE?

AH.. THIS WAS FROM HEINRICH'S UNCLE.

I DON'T WANT THEM TO BE INSULTED JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE THE CHILDREN OF A JAPANESE WOMAN.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY SONS IF THEY LIVE IN EUROPE?

BUT...

Do you want to repeat the same mistake again?

Why do you always choose someone whom we don't approve of?

THE WAR IS JUST ABOUT TO START...

IT'S NOT FINISHED YET...

Whatever happens, we will never approve of your marriage.

WHAT HAPPENED WITH MARY?

THE SAME MISTAKE?

HEINRICH HASN'T TOLD ME EVERYTHING YET...

We will never accept the woman you've chosen as the Lady of Coudenhove.

STARTING TOMORROW, I'LL HAVE TO HANDLE EVERYTHING MYSELF IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY...

I'M AFRAID... I'M SO AFRAID!

GOODBYE FATHER, MOTHER, AND ALL THOSE JAPANESE WHO SHARE THE SAME EYE COLOR AS ME.

DOOOOOO

WILL I BE ABLE TO DO IT?

AND THE HOMELAND THAT I WILL PROBABLY NEVER BE ABLE TO RETURN TO...

DEAR...

MITSUKO.

YOU WILL NEVER NEED TO WORRY IN EUROPE. SINCE I'LL ALWAYS PROTECT YOU..

I'M WITH YOU...

BECAUSE SHE IS THE WOMAN THAT I LOVE.

THEREFORE, I WANT YOU TO BE THE SAME MITSUKO THAT YOU ARE NOW.

HEINRICH...

THE PEOPLE OF VIENNA WILL NOT APPROVE OF MITSUKO EASILY...

MOREOVER, MY RELATIVES...

PLEASE HOLD ME CLOSE.

CHEER ME UP!

I WILL PROTECT HER AS MUCH AS I CAN.

I WILL MAKE HER HAPPY UNTIL DEATH SEPARATES US...

DUDDU

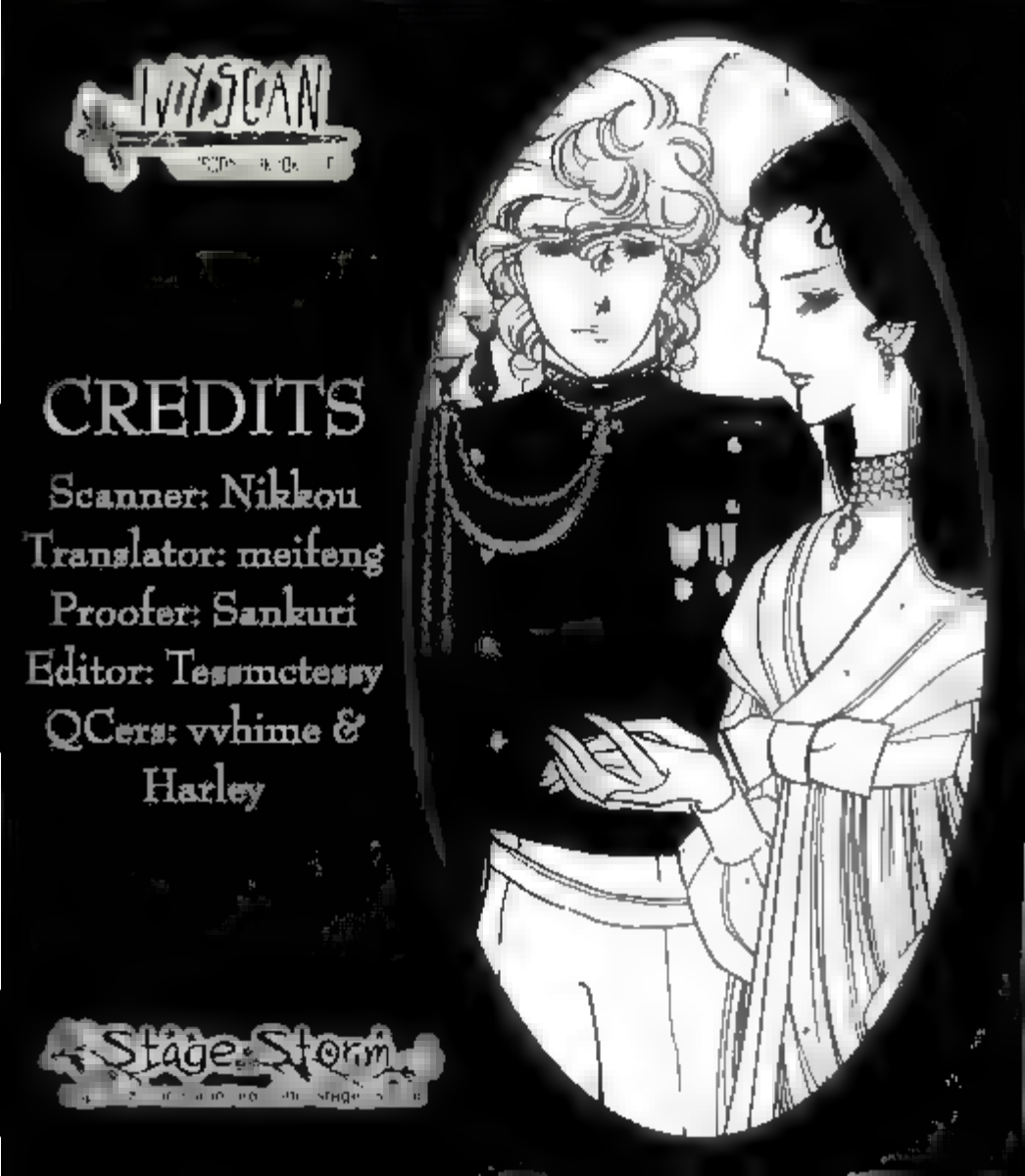
WITH THOSE WORDS BEING SAID, THE SHIP BEGAN ITS JOURNEY.

I WILL MAKE HER HAPPY, I WILL LOVE HER FOREVER...

BLOCKED BY DOUBT, REJECTION, AND THE BORDER INSIDE HER HEART...

THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF A LONG JOURNEY FOR THE GIRL WHO WAS BORN HOLDING A STAR IN HER HAND.

BORN AS A COMMONER, SHE HAD BECOME A PRINCESS WHO WOULD LATER RULE OVER THE BOHEMIAN TERRITORY.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YAMATO WAKI'S
SELECTION WORK

LADY MITSUKO

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LADY
MITSUKO

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Barcarolle

CHAPTER 2 THE COUNT'S DARK-HAIRED WIFE

MITSUKO AND HEINRICH TRAVELLED THROUGH EGYPT, ROME, AND OTHER COUNTRIES BEFORE THEY FINALLY ARRIVED AT HEINRICH'S PALACE IN RONSPERG. THEY ARRIVED AND WERE WELCOMED BY AUSTRIA'S FRAGRANT EARLY SUMMER...

WE'RE LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE ENJOYING THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SEASON IN RONSPERG.

WHAT IS THAT FLOWER CALLED? IT IS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PURPLE.

AH, THAT'S LILAC!

LOOK. WE CAN SEE THE RONSPERG PALACE FROM HERE.

I WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM THE LIFE I LIVED BEFORE.

I WILL STAY AT THAT PALACE FROM NOW ON, AND I WILL HAVE TO BEHAVE LIKE A PRINCE'S LADY IN THIS FOREIGN COUNTRY

BUT...

NO NEED TO RUSH. THERE'S NOTHING TO BE WORRIED ABOUT

RATTLE

DO YOU THINK HANS AND RICHARD ARE ALL WELL...?

I'M WORRIED THAT THEY HAD TO WAIT SO LONG WITH ONLY THE MAIDS AS COMPANY.

ALL THE RELATIVES HAVE COME TO WELCOME US.

UNCLE...

HEINRICH, DID YOU HAVE AN ENJOYABLE TRIP?

UNCLE.

WE MUST HOLD A GLORIOUS FEAST IN HONOR OF YOUR RETURN.

I'M GLAD THAT YOU ARE WELL.

LET ME INTRODUCE HER. THIS IS...

TO INTRODUCE THEM TO THE NEW HEAD OF THE KALERGI FAMILY.

WE WILL INVITE ALL THE NEARBY NOBLES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS...

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ME? I'M YOUR COUSIN, SOFIA.

YOU ARE...?

HOW ARE YOU, HEINRICH?

LOOK WHAT A BEAUTIFUL LADY SHE HAS GROWN UP TO BECOME. SHE HAS WAITED PATIENTLY FOR YOU TO RETURN.

I TRUST YOU WILL MAKE A DECISION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

SO THEY REALLY HAVE NO INTENTION OF ACCEPTING ME...

AS HEINRICH'S WIFE.

HEINRICH!

SWOOP

MITSUKO.

IN EUROPE, THERE IS A TRADITION OF CARRYING THE BRIDE THROUGH THE DOOR OF HER NEW HOME.

UNCLE. EVERYONE.

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MY WIFE. MITSUKO COUDENHOVE-KALERGI.

WE DO NOT ACCEPT THIS. HEINRICH!

AH!

AS HEAD OF THE FAMILY. IT IS YOUR DUTY TO CHOOSE A PROPER BRIDE.

HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY ACCEPT A DISGUSTING WOMAN WHOM WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT AS THE LADY OF THE KALERGI FAMILY?

WHAT A FOOL! HE HAS SHAMED HIS OWN FAMILY!

I'M EXCUSING MYSELF!

DON'T WORRY. SOFIA!

MOTHER. HEINRICH...

SHE CANNOT LIVE IN THIS PALACE!

SHE CANNOT BE ACKNOWLEDGED.

THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM AT ALL, SO LONG AS THE RELATIVES DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE HER AS HEINRICH'S LEGAL WIFE.

AND THEY WILL NEVER ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WOMAN!

WHO WANTS TO GIVE THIS PALACE AND ALL ITS RICHES TO THAT WOMAN?

DO YOU THINK IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF I HADN'T COME WITH YOU?

HEINRICH, I...

I KNEW THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME CONTROVERSY...

BUT I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD BE AS BAD AS THIS.

HOW CRUEL...

DON'T SAY SUCH A RIDICULOUS THING.

SSSH. NOT SO LOUD!

LET'S HURRY. WE MIGHT BE SCOLDED AGAIN!

I DON'T WANT

AN ORIENTAL LIKE HER TO LIVE HERE.

I BET THAT GOWN DOESN'T SUIT HER.

LET'S GO. THE PREPARATIONS ARE ALL DONE. THE PARTY WILL START SOON.

YES. I AM.

MITSUKO, ARE YOU READY?

ARE YOU AFRAID?

I... AM NOT VERY FLUENT IN GERMAN.

SEE?

AH. YOU'D BEST WEAR THIS EMERALD NECKLACE.

IT LOOKS WELL WITH YOUR BLACK HAIR.

TODAY IS OUR FIRST CHANCE TO CONVINCE MY RELATIVES

TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR MARRIAGE.

IT IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR NOW.

LET'S GO.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE PRINCE OF KALERGI?

OF COURSE I HEARD.

HOW COULD AN AUSTRIAN NOBLEMAN MARRY A LOWLY JAPANESE.

IT IS NOT A MARRIAGE! HEINRICH IS ONLY TRIFLING!

NONE OF THE RELATIVES ACKNOWLEDGE HER AS HEINRICH'S WIFE. WE CONSIDER HER A GUEST.

I CAN'T BE BOTHERED TO SPEAK WITH A MAN WHO WOULD ENTER INTO SUCH A MARRIAGE.

ALSO, I HEARD THAT WOMAN IS THE DAUGHTER OF AN ANTIQUE MERCHANT. SHE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE ANY STATUS IN JAPAN.

IS THAT SO?

I'M SURE. SOFIA IS A MUCH BETTER CHOICE TO BE LADY OF THIS PALACE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS.

OH, HERE THEY ARE...

Silence

YOU'D BEST TALK TO HEINRICH SOON, SOFIA.

DON'T LOSE TO AN ORIENTAL LIKE HER!

WE'LL SURELY SUPPORT YOU!

HOW ELEGANT SHE LOOKS,

HOW PERFECT...

BLACK HAIR, CREAMY SKIN, AND BRIGHT RED LIPS.

BUT THE ADMIRATION FOR MITSUKO...

IMMEDIATELY CHANGED TO HATRED FOR MITSUKO.

I'LL SHOW HER!

JUST WAIT AND SEE!

WHAT DID YOU SAY!?

HOW EXOTIC.

WHAT IS THERE THAT'S GOOD ABOUT HER?

HE IS STILL YOUNG AND LACKS MATURITY. THEREFORE WE ASK ALL OF YOU TO HELP HIM.

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY, PRINCE HEINRICH COUDENHOVE-KALERGI, HAS RETURNED.

RATHER, THEY ARE LOOKING AT ME AS THOUGH I WERE SOME EXOTIC ANIMAL.

MR. AND MS. SCHMITT.

PRINCE VON STEIN.

GOVERNOR'S WIFE, MADAME GUERLAIN.

THIS IS MY WIFE, MITSUKO.

AMERICAN CONSULATE, MR. AND MRS. VALENTINE.

WELCOME TO OUR PARTY.

AH!

DASH

NOT ONE OF THEM IS LOOKING AT ME AS THE PRINCE'S LADY.

MITSUKO!

FALL

MR. AND MS. MOELLER.

AHA HA HA HA HA HA

OH, IT MUST BE DIFFICULT, NOT BEING USED TO YOUR OWN GOWN AND SHOES.

HOW MUCH DO YOU SUPPOSE THIS ONE COST?

HOHO.

VERY EXPENSIVE, I BET, BECAUSE SHE IS SO PRETTY!

I HEARD THAT IN JAPAN WOMEN CAN STILL BE BOUGHT AND SOLD LIKE MERCHANDISE.

OH, IS THAT TRUE?

MITSUKO,

A WALTZ. LET'S DANCE! I TAUGHT YOU BEFORE, DIDN'T I?

SO CRUEL ...

YES... THAT'S GOOD!

STAND UP STRAIGHT AND LOOK AT ME, MITSUKO!

THAT WHY I'M TREATED THIS WAY?

JUST BECAUSE I AM JAPANESE?

WHY?

AH. SHE IS A GOOD DANCER!

HEINRICH TAUGHT HER WELL.

MITSUKO, DON'T DESPAIR!

YOUR SUFFERING IS MY SUFFERING. WHEN YOU ARE SAD, I WILL CRY AS WELL.

UNTIL THE DAY WHEN EVERYONE ACKNOWLEDGES YOU AS MY LADY...

MY PRINCE, WILL YOU ACCOMPANY US IN A RONDO?

RONDO...? A GROUP DANCE... I HAVEN'T PRACTICED THAT BEFORE!

I'M SORRY, SOFIA. I CAN'T DANCE RONDO.

DON'T BE SO MODEST! EVERYONE STILL REMEMBERS THAT MY PRINCE IS A VERY SKILLFUL RONDO DANCER.

WHAT SHALL I DO? I BARELY KNOW THE RONDO...

HA! LET'S SEE HOW GOOD THIS LITTLE GIRL IS!

LET'S GATHER, EVERYONE!

START THE MUSIC, PLEASE!

OUCH!

THE LIFE OF A PRINCE IS FULL OF PARTIES AND GLORIOUS FEASTS.

FROM MEETING WITH OTHER NOBLES TO ATTENDING RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES.

HEINRICH...

I'M SORRY, SOFIA. I'VE FORGOTTEN HOW. IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I LAST DID THIS DANCE.

THAT HURTS!

P- PARDON ME. BUT WHAT IS THAT?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND A MOZART CONCERT?

FOR MITSUKO, WHO WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH EUROPEAN CULTURE, IT WAS A SERIOUS CHALLENGE.

WHAT!? YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MOZART?

THIS WOMAN, HOW CAN SHE CALL HERSELF THE PRINCE'S LADY!?

THERE'S NO HELPING IT! JAPAN IS A PRIMITIVE COUNTRY, AFTER ALL.

IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS...

IS IT TRULY IMPOSSIBLE..?

BUT STILL NOBODY SEEMS TO ACKNOWLEDGE ME AS A PRINCE'S LADY.

WHAT A PITY.. I AM TIRED.

WOULD IT BE BETTER FOR ME TO RETURN TO JAPAN?

AH! I WANT TO RETURN TO JAPAN!

I WAS SO HAPPY IN JAPAN.

I HAD TWO SONS AND MY BELOVED HUSBAND.. IT WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH!

AH, MOTHER. YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL!

YOU'RE LIKE A JAPANESE DOLL!

WHAT IS A JAPANESE DOLL?

LIKE THE ONE ON THE DRESSER.

I STILL REMEMBER IT, MOTHER!

SO YOU DO PREFER TO WEAR A KIMONO RATHER THAN A GOWN.

I'M SORRY, IF ANYBODY SEES ME LIKE THIS..

THEY WILL MOCK YOU AS WELL. I WILL CHANGE IMMEDIATELY.

DEAR...

DON'T CHANGE.

TODAY, LET US BE NOSTALGIC.

IT WAS ON A WINTER'S DAY THAT WE MET FOR THE FIRST TIME.

WE QUIETLY BECAME ABSORBED IN MEMORIES OF THAT BRIEF PERIOD OF TIME.

AND NOW, HERE I AM.

AT THE TIME, I CHOSE TO SACRIFICE ANYTHING FOR MY LOVE.

GOOD MORNING, MY LADY.

MY NAME IS FRANZ ERNST

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A HOME TUTOR FOR OUR CHILDREN.

AND NOW I'VE FOUND ONE. HE WAS MY UNDERCLASSMAN IN COLLEGE, AND HE IS THE BROTHER OF ONE OF MY FRIENDS.

I'VE HEARD MUCH ABOUT YOU FROM THE PRINCE, MY LADY

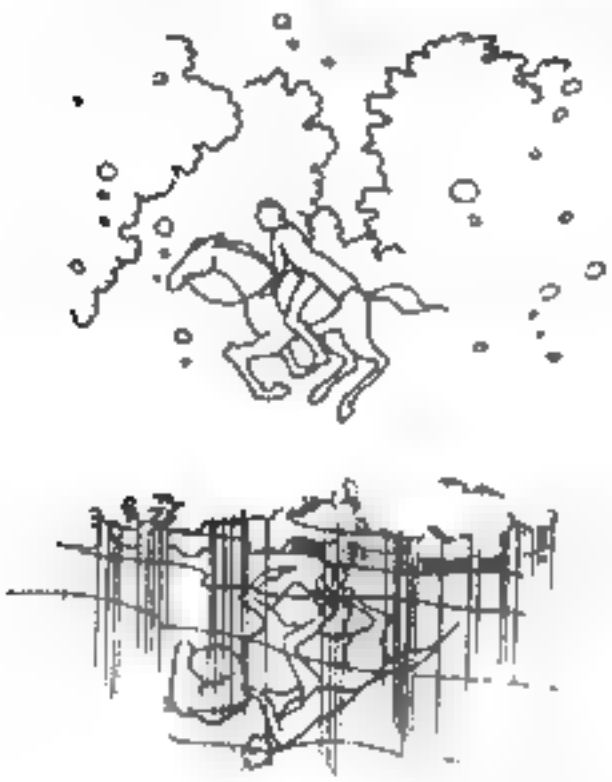
NICE TO MEET YOU.

YOU ARE NOT ACCUSTOMED TO EUROPEAN TRADITIONS. IT MUST BE HARD FOR YOU. IF I CAN DO ANYTHING TO HELP, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO ASK ME.

I JUST... NEVER IMAGINED I WOULD HEAR SUCH KIND WORDS IN THIS PLACE.

I'M SORRY

MY LADY...



MITSUKO...

SO YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO SAY SUCH THINGS?

ENOUGH OF THIS ALREADY!

WHAT HAVE I DONE TO HER ANYWAY?

DO YOU THINK ME A FOOL, UNCLE? I KNOW YOU ARE THE ONE WHO IS ABLE TO INFLUENCE THE BEHAVIOR OF ALL THE REST

IF THIS GOES ON, MITSUKO WILL BECOME ILL!

YOU THINK... MITSUKO, AS A JAPANESE... IS SUCH A LOWLY PERSON...?

IS THAT REALLY SO HARD FOR YOU?

ALL I WANT IS FOR YOU TO ACKNOWLEDGE MITSUKO AS MY WIFE!

ONE DAY, SHE WILL RETURN TO JAPAN, OR SUFFER THE SAME FATE AS MARY!

THE TRADITIONS OF THE KALERGI FAMILY ARE BRAVERY AND ACTION.

FAMILY TRADITION?

MITSUKO IS A PRETTY WOMAN. GENTLE AND POLITE!

I'M SURE SHE REALLY DOES LOVE YOU...

THE LADY MUST BE A WOMAN WHO IS EXCITED BY HUNTING ANIMALS.

BUT THAT WOMAN IS NOT SUITABLE TO CARRY ON THE KALERGI FAMILY TRADITION.

MITSUKO WILL NEVER BE PART OF THE KALERGI FAMILY

MEANWHILE, HEINRICH, YOU HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO CARRY ON THE NAME AND TRADITIONS OF OUR FAMILY!

SHE IS NOT THE TYPE WHO IS ABLE TO COMMIT VIOLENCE.

YOU MEAN... IF MITSUKO WERE SUCH A WOMAN...

SOFIA IS A MORE SUITABLE WIFE!

I KNOW YOU TWO LOVE EACH OTHER. BUT THAT IS NOT THE POINT!

DO NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE YOU DID IN THE PAST!

SLAM

NO MATTER WHAT, MITSUKO IS THE MOST SUITABLE WOMAN FOR ME!

I AM THE ONE WHO CHOSE HER!

I WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES SO THAT MITSUKO WILL BE ACCEPTED IN HIGH SOCIETY

THE SAME MISTAKE...? OF COURSE...

I WILL NEVER DO THAT AGAIN.

THAT WAS IN JAPAN.

I WAS TAUGHT THAT WOMEN CANNOT RIDE HORSES.

BUT IN THIS COUNTRY, NOBLE WOMEN RIDE HORSES.

I... I CANNOT RIDE A HORSE.

THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU.

AND NEXT YEAR, I HOPE YOU CAN ATTEND OUR FAMILY'S ANNUAL FOX HUNT.

COME NOW, HOP ON!

BUT...

I WANT YOU TO BE ABLE TO DO IT.

FALL

MITSUKO!

KYAAA...!

STRAIGHTEN YOUR BODY AND BACK.

IT'S SCARY... I'M 'AFRA.D. !

I NEVER KNEW THAT A HORSE WAS THIS TALL.

MY LADY!

MITSU-KO!

MITSUKO MUST BE ACCEPTED INTO HIGH SOCIETY ON HER OWN.

IT IS NOT ENOUGH JUST TO PROTECT HER.

SHE'S JUST UNCONSCIOUS, MY PRINCE.

SHE'S ALL RIGHT.

WHY DID YOU FORCE HER?

THIS ELEGANT AND GENTLE LADY...

ONCE MORE.

START WITH THE G KEY

I CAN'T FINISH IT BY TOMORROW. I NEED TO USE THE DICTIONARY

THIS IS THE FAMILY HISTORY YOU NEED TO KNOW IT BY TOMORROW.

FINISH IT!

ENOUGH!

I CAN'T DO THIS ANY LONGER!

WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY MAKING ME DO ALL THESE THINGS?

WHY...

DO IT!

HUNTING IS SO UNCIVILIZED. I CAN'T DO IT!

I CAN'T!

DON'T YOU WANT TO BE MY WIFE?

YOU...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M DOING ANYMORE!

OUR HEARTS WERE SO CONNECTED IN JAPAN.

THAT SEEMS SO FAR AWAY NOW.

HEINRICH OWNS IT THE ZAMATO ESTATE, AS WELL. BUT BETWEEN THE TWO, OTTENSHEIM IS THE MORE BEAUTIFUL.

IT IS LOCATED NEAR THE DANUBE RIVER, AND IS SURROUNDED BY THE PINE TREE FOREST AND THE BEAUTIFUL SWANS.

I AM A BIT TIRED.

IN THAT CASE, WHY NOT GO TO OTTENSHEIM PALACE AND REST FOR A WHILE?

YOU WILL RECOVER SOON. AND THAT PALACE IS SO PRETTY

YOU DON'T LOOK WELL, MITSUKO.

THANK YOU, SOFIA.

I WILL TRY ASKING HIM.

YOU SHOULD ASK HIM AT DINNER TIME.

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO GO THERE?

YES.

IT'S A WIFE'S JOB TO CONTROL THE CONVERSATION AT THE DINNER TABLE.

DEAR...

TODAY, SOFIA TOLD ME ABOUT OTTENSHEIM PALACE.

Clatter

DO YOU MIND TAKING ME THERE?

SHE SAID THAT IT IS A BEAUTIFUL PALACE.

CRUSH

MITSUKO...

DO NOT SPEAK OF OTTENSHEIM PALACE... EVER AGAIN!

HEINRICH!

YOU'RE BLEEDING!

THE PLACE WHERE MISS MARY DIED!

OTTENSHEIM ...

OTTENSHEIM IS...

MY LADY.. WHY DID YOU TALK ABOUT OTTENSHEIM PALACE TO THE MASTER?

HEINRICH!

THE INCIDENT WITH MARY...

THE UNFORGIVEABLE MISTAKE?

AH...

HA HA HA

DIDN'T YOU KNOW ABOUT IT? YOU'RE SO UNFIT FOR HEINRICH!

A LOWLY JAPANESE LIKE YOU IS BETTER OFF RETURNING TO JAPAN!

YOU DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO YOU?

HE LOVED MARY... HE LOVED HER SO MUCH.

I... I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT MY OWN HUSBAND.

PLEASE... TELL ME...

TELL ME... PLEASE...

PLEASE...

THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE AROUND HERE... WE ALL KNOW ABOUT THE INCIDENT AT OTTENSHEIM PALACE.

IT WAS SUCH A HUGE CONTROVERSY.

MY LADY...

MISS MARY... SHE WAS A WOMAN THAT MY HUSBAND USED TO LOVE, RIGHT?

YES. SHE WAS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.

THE PRINCE ASKED HIS FATHER PERMISSION TO MARRY HER MANY TIMES.

BUT THE FACT REMAINED THAT THEY WERE STILL TOO YOUNG, AND THAT WOMAN WAS NOT BORN OF A NOBLE FAMILY...

THEY WERE BOTH TOO YOUNG AT THE TIME.

A LOVE THAT CAME TOO SOON.

AND LOCKED THE PRINCE IN HIS ROOM AT OTTENSHEIM PALACE.

THE PRINCE'S FATHER WAS OUTRAGED.

AND HIS LADY LOVE...

BENEATH THE WINDOW OF THE PRINCE'S ROOM...

IN THE GARDEN OF OTTENSHEIM PALACE...

SHE TOOK HER OWN LIFE...

SHE EXTINGUISHED HER BROKEN HEART AND THE BABY IN HER WOMB.

PLEASE GO TO THE PRINCE.

MY LADY.

AH... HEIN-RICH...

MY DEAR HE-NR.CH...

HE HAS TRIED TO FORGET...

THE PRINCE LOVES YOU VERY MUCH.

THAT IS WHY HE HAS BEEN TRYING SO HARD TO MAKE YOU ACCEPT-ABLE TO HIS FAMILY.

SHE THOUGHT SHE DIDN'T DESERVE TO LIVE ANY LONGER...

I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THAT.

FROM THE ABYSS OF HIS SUF-FERING...

HEINRICH REACHED HIS HAND OUT TO ME...

I WILL NO LONGER FEEL DOUBT.

IT IS ALL BECAUSE OF HEINRICH THAT I WAS ABLE TO EXPERIENCE THIS KIND OF LOVE FOR THE FIRST TIME.

DEAR...

AND I GAVE HIM MY HAND.

OPEN

MITSUKO, I'M SORRY... I DIDN'T CONSIDER YOUR FEELINGS.

FOR YOU TO BE ACCEPTED IN HIGH SOCIETY AND BE ACKNOWLEDGED AS MY LEGAL WIFE.

PERHAPS I'M IN TOO MUCH OF A RUSH .

THAT IS NOT TRUE, DEAR...

NO...

I... WILL BECOME THE NOBLEST LADY IN ALL OF EUROPE.

FOR YOUR SAKE...

STARTING TOMORROW, I WILL LEARN TO RIDE A HORSE AND DANCE.

AND EVERYTHING ELSE YOU'VE TRIED TO TEACH ME. I WILL BECOME A FINE NOBLE WOMAN.

I WILL RETURN IT WITH NOTHING BUT SMILES...

AS LONG AS I HAVE HEINRICH'S LOVE,

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

THAT WILL BE THE WAY I SHOW MY LOVE FOR HIM.

One, two...

FRENCH

WH- WHAT'S WRONG?

SIR!

YOU STARTLED ME.

MR....

MR. ERNST!

INTERESTING.

IT SEEMS WE'VE GOT ONE MORE STUDENT IN RONSPERG.

I'M A FAILURE AS A MOTHER.

I COULDN'T EVEN ANSWER MY SON'S SIMPLE QUESTION.

THAT'S UNDER-STANDABLE. THESE SUBJECTS ARE NOT TAUGHT IN JAPAN.

EARLIER, HANS ASKED ME A QUESTION FROM HIS HOMEWORK.

IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN EASY, SINCE IT WAS A QUESTION FOR A CHILD.

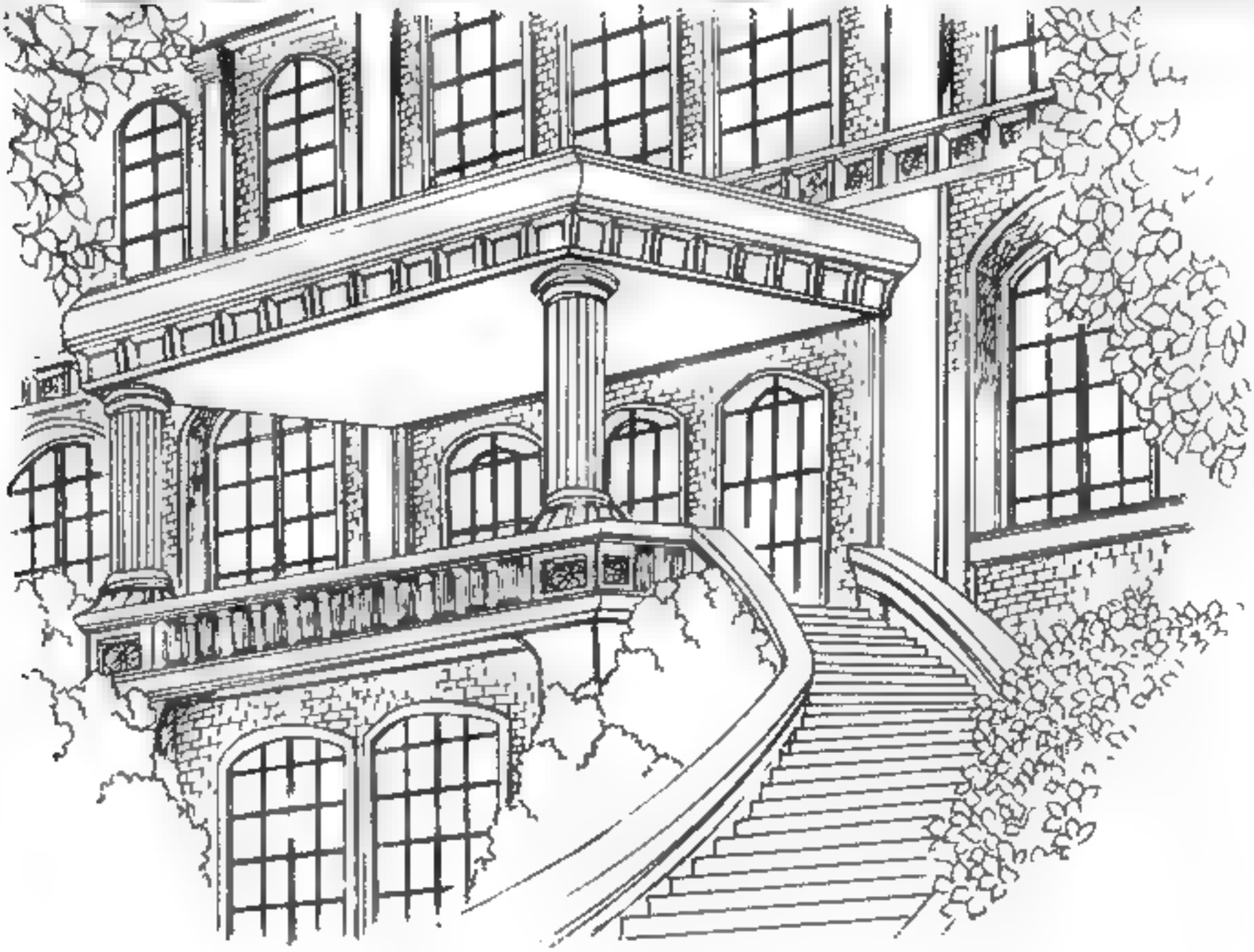
BUT I WAS UNABLE TO ANSWER HIM.

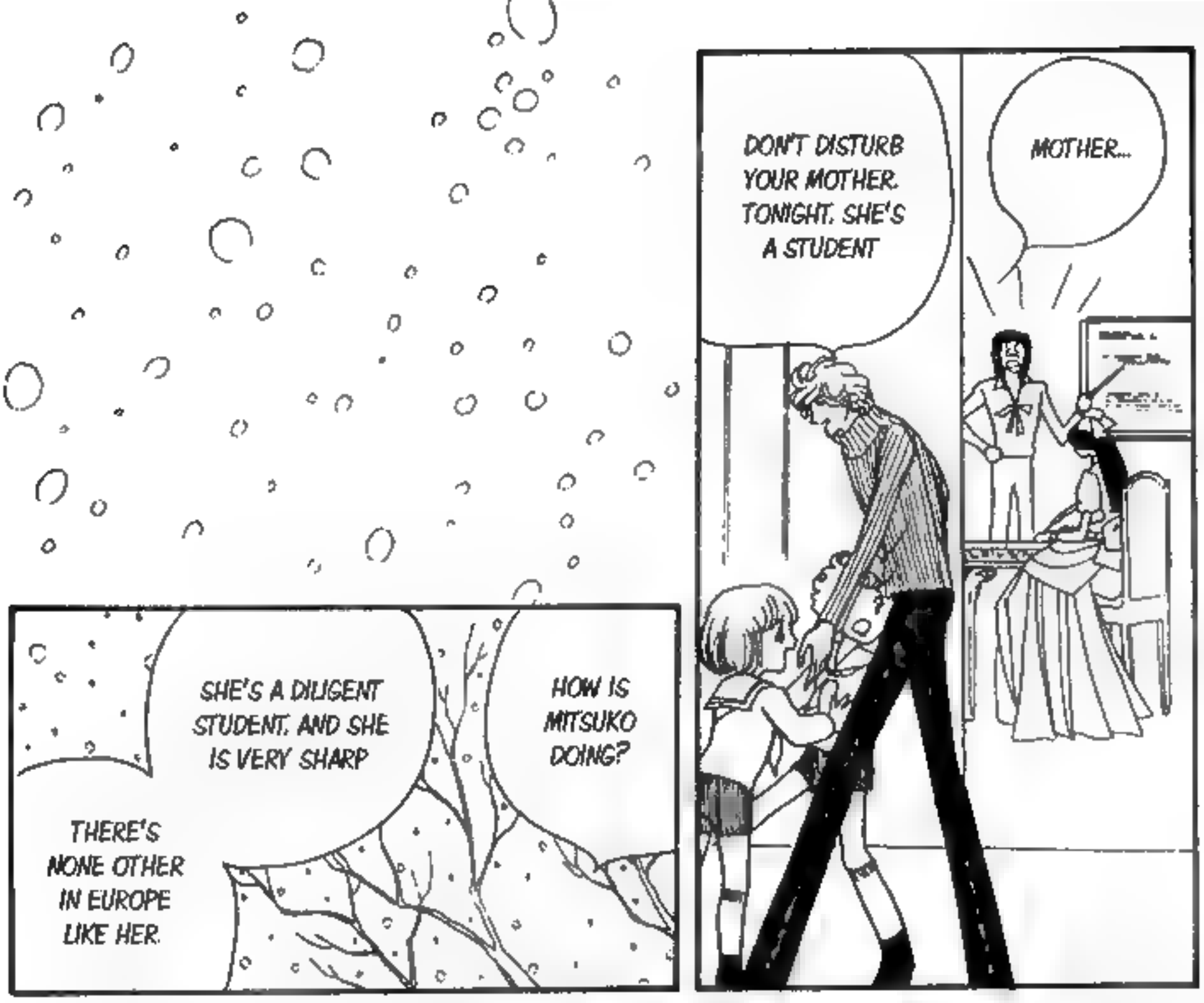
HUH?

.....

THAT'S WHY I'D LIKE YOU TO PLEASE TEACH ME EVERYTHING YOU TEACH THE CHILDREN.

BUT I WANT TO LEARN IT ONE DAY AHEAD OF THEM.




DON'T DISTURB YOUR MOTHER TONIGHT. SHE'S A STUDENT
MOTHER...
SHE'S A DILIGENT STUDENT. AND SHE IS VERY SHARP
HOW IS MITSUKO DOING?
THERE'S NONE OTHER IN EUROPE LIKE HER.
CRACKLE CRACKLE CRACKLE
MITSUKO HAS BECOME AN ESTEEMED LADY IN EUROPE NOW.
I ENVY YOU, MY PRINCE.
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
IS THERE ANY OTHER WOMAN LIKE HER...
IN THE WHOLE WORLD?

THE GOOD DAYS WILL CONTINUE. AND THERE WILL BE MORE FOXES TO HUNT.

I WON'T LET MY UNCLE BEAT ME AGAIN THIS YEAR!

JUST WAIT AND SEE! I DON'T PLAN TO LOSE TO YOU YOUNGSTERS EITHER!

IT'S HERE AT LAST!

THE FOX HUNTING SEASON IN RONSPERG!

RATTLE

RATTLE

IT'S NEARLY TIME FOR THE HUNTING SEASON!

QUICK! WE HAVE TO FINISH THE HARVEST FASTER.

THE FOOD IS READY. PLEASE ENJOY THE FEAST, EVERYONE.

YOU'RE STILL HERE!

HU...UH!

SHE'S CHANGED. THIS WOMAN... SHE NOW LOOKS LIKE A TRULY NOBLE LADY.

WELCOME HOME!

I WELCOME YOU TO THIS YEAR'S HUNTING SEASON IN RONSPERG.

I WISH I HAD MORE TO OFFER BY WAY OF HOSPITALITY. PLEASE ENJOY

THIS IS THE TRADITIONAL CLOTHING OF MY COUNTRY.

WH- WHAT IS THAT GOWN?

HMMM... WHAT AN ODD DRESS.

WHAT IS THAT INSIDE THE BELT?

YOU ALL ADORE YOUR GOWNS IN AUSTRIA. IT IS THE SAME FOR ME.

I LOVE MY KIMONO.

JAPANESE PEOPLE WOULD PREFER DEATH TO HUMILIATION.

AS A JAPANESE WOMAN, I CONSTANTLY REMIND MYSELF OF THIS TRADITION.

A BLADE!

AH!

DO ALL JAPANESE WOMEN CARRY A BLADE WITH THEM?

SHE'S BECOME THE CENTER OF ATTENTION.

WHAT IS GOING ON...?

ARE YOU STILL AWAKE? GO TO SLEEP NOW!

AWW!

HAHA. LOOK AT UNCLE'S FACE. HE'S CONFUSED.

WHAT'S HAPPENING, TEACHER?

WHISTLE

WHISTLE

THE FOX HUNT IN RONSPERG HAS NOW BEGUN!

WOOF

WOOF

THERE ARE SOME FOXES!

RELEASE THE HOUNDS!

DASH

DASH

DASH

DASH

I DIDN'T SLEEP WELL LAST NIGHT..

I DON'T FEEL WELL TODAY.

YAA!

WOOF

WOOF

WOOF

WOOF

DASH

DASH

DASH

DASH

COME ON!

KYAAAAA

AH!

SLIP

WHAT!? SOFIA WAS THROWN OFF THE CLIFF?

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH HER FROM HERE.

WHAT SHALL WE DO?

PLEASE HELP HER!

...

AH...

AH.

LOOK! WHAT IS SHE DOING?

COULD IT BE...?

MITSUKO...?

WHINNY

CLOP

CLOP

CLOP

KYAAA!

MITSUKO!

BAM

JUMP

SOFIA...

MITSUKO...

SHE'S DONE IT!

OH...

DON'T WORRY. YOUR INJURIES DO NOT APPEAR TO BE VERY BAD.

DEAR...

MITSUKO.

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT

THAT WOMAN...

I THOUGHT SHE WAS LIKE A DOLL. ONE THAT WOULD JUST RUN AWAY BACK TO HER HOME.

AM I REALLY? I TOOK NO NOTICE BECAUSE I WAS IN SUCH A PANIC.

OOPS. YOU'RE BLEEDING!

HA HA HA HA HA HA

WE'RE LUCKY THAT WE COULD CONTINUE THE FOX HUNT AFTER THAT INCIDENT.

LOOK, UNCLE IS TALKING.

DO YOU KNOW THE HISTORY OF THE KALERGI FAMILY?

EVERYONE.

KALON...

AND ERGON.

THE KALERGI FAMILY BEGAN WHEN OUR ANCESTOR RULED OVER VENICE AND CYPRUS. BEFORE THE KINGDOM OF BYZANTIUM.

KALERGI COMES FROM THE GREEK WORDS KALON, MEANING NOBLE, AND ERGON, MEANING DEED.

TODAY, I REALIZED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THOSE TWO WORDS FOR MYSELF.

MITSUKO...

A BEAUTIFUL AND YET NOBLE LADY. WHO IS WORTHY OF OUR FAMILY.

HER EASTERN BLOOD SHALL JOIN THAT OF OUR ANCESTORS.

AND I CONSIDER THAT AN HONOR.

CLAP

THE FIRST DANCE IS LEAD BY UNCLE, THE ELDEST IN THE FAMILY... AND HIS PARTNER...

UNCLE...

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

IS ME!

WOULD YOU DANCE A WALTZ WITH ME?

IT'S TOO BAD WE AREN'T WEARING KIMONO.

AT LAST, MITSUKO WAS ACKNOWLEDGED AS A PRINCE'S LADY.

MY PRINCE...

HMMM...

FOR HER, THIS WAS THE END OF A LONG WINTER.

SHE CAME TO RONSPERG FIVE YEARS AGO...

HAD BECOME THE CENTER OF ATTENTION AMONG ALL THE NOBILITY,

NOT LONG AFTER THAT, MITSUKO, WHO WAS WELL LIKED AMONG THE ELITE IN VIENNA,

AS A BEAUTIFUL, WELL MANNERED, AND EDUCATED YOUNG LADY.

FROM 1896 TO 1903, MITSUKO BORE TWO SONS AND THREE DAUGHTERS. THEIR NAMES WERE GEROLF, ELISABETH, OLGA, IDA, AND HENRY.

THE PRINCE'S LADY, MITSUKO COUDENHOVE-KALERGI, IS LIKE A FLOWER THAT BLOOMS ETERNALLY. EVEN AMONG THE OTHER BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADIES OF THE KALERGI FAMILY.

THE NAME OF THE BLACK HAIRED WIFE OF THE PRINCE SPREAD THROUGH ALL OF EUROPE.

MITSUKO, YOUR LIFE IS FULL OF HAPPINESS.

ALONG WITH THOSE SEVEN CHILDREN AND HER BELOVED HUSBAND.

GOD HAS PROVIDED YOU WITH EVERYTHING.

AT TIMES... MY CHEST HURTS...

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY HEART...?

IT'S ALL THANKS TO HEINRICH

WITHOUT HEINRICH, I WOULD NEVER HAVE COME TO THIS.

I'M FEELING BETTER NOW...

OF COURSE. GO AHEAD.

HEINRICH, MAY I GO WITH MITSUKO TO THE FAMILY GATHERING?

EVERYONE WANTS TO MEET THE BLACK-HAIRED WIFE OF THE PRINCE.

I CAN'T BECOME ILL AND RUIN ALL THIS HAPPINESS.

WELCOME HOME! AH, YOU ARE ALL WET!

DID YOU TAKE MR. ERNST OUT ONLY TO GET HIM WET?

THAT WAS A BIG FOX.

IF THE RAIN WASN'T SO HEAVY, WE SURELY WOULD HAVE CAUGHT IT.

BUT THIS IS NO ORDINARY DISEASE.

AND YOU TOO, MR. ERNST. DO NOT ALWAYS JUST DO AS HEINRICH SAYS. YOU MUST FIND A GOOD WIFE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.

CLAT

HAVE THE CHILDREN DONE THEIR HOMEWORK?

YES. I THINK SO.

HEINRICH!

NO... I DON'T NEED A DOCTOR...

PLEASE BRING ME A PRIEST.

MY LADY, CALL THE DOCTOR. QUICK!

MY PRINCE!

DEAR

DEAR...

HEART ATTACK... AND I'M SURE HE SUFFERED FROM SOME MINOR STROKES RECENTLY.

HEINRICH!

HANS...

RICHARD...

FATHER...

ARE YOU GOING TO LEAVE US?

YES.

DEAR...

I HAVE TO LEAVE YOU SO SOON.

MITSUKO...

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOUR MOTHER... AND HELP YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

AFTER I HAVE GONE...

FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME...

THE LIFE YOU GAVE ME HAS MEANT SO MUCH...

I WAS SO HAPPY...

THANK... YOU.

GOD...

DON'T TAKE HIM AWAY...

DON'T...

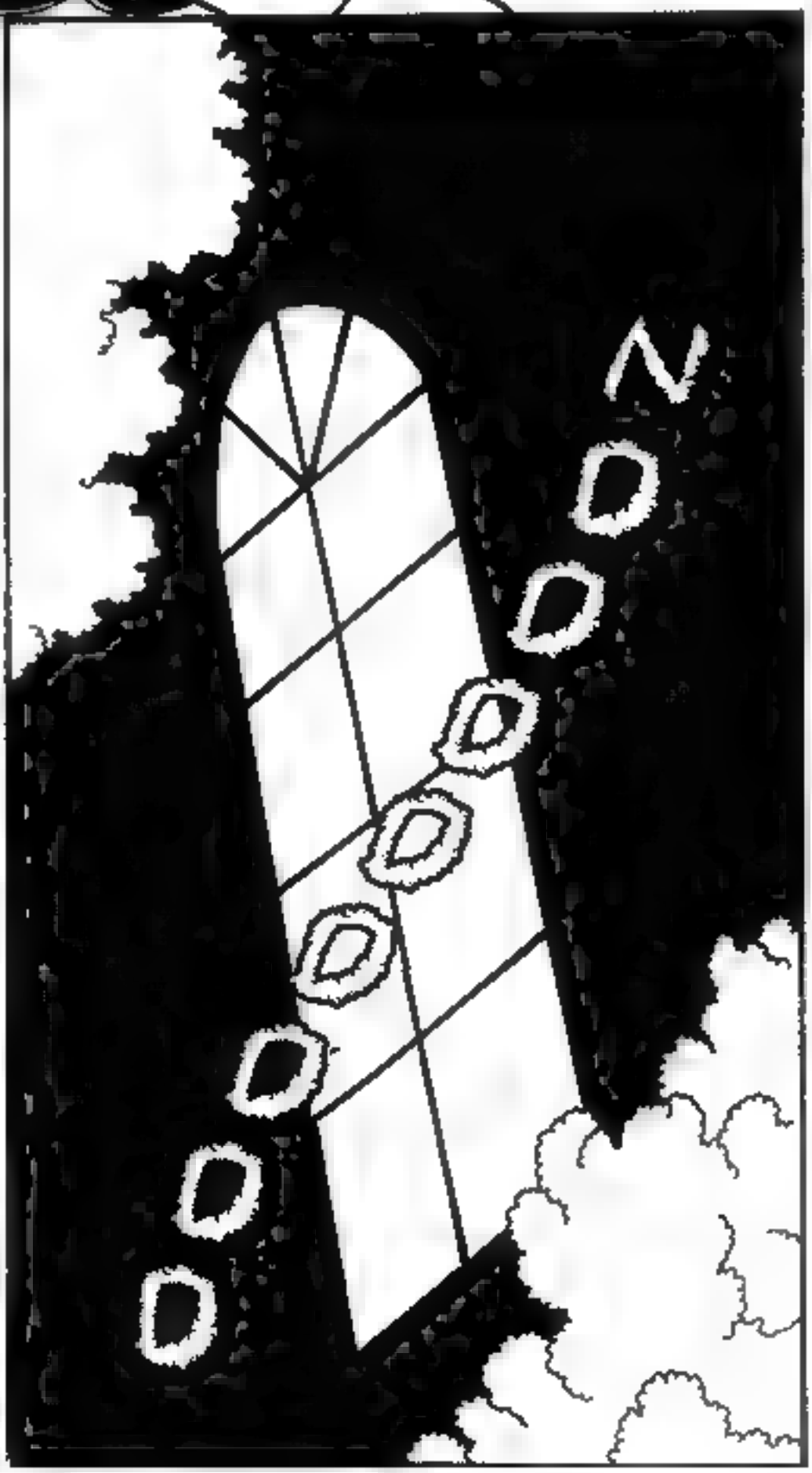
DON'T TAKE HIM AWAY!

GIVE ME BACK MY HUSBAND!

GIVE HIM BACK! GIVE HIM BACK!

UH...
AH...

MY LADY! PLEASE, STOP!
IT'S RAINING!
MY LADY!



CLOP
CLOP
LET HER GO.

I DID EVERYTHING AND HAVE COME SO FAR...

AND IT WAS ALL BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE FOR ME.

WHY... WHY... WHY...

GOD...

DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE!

PLEASE! TAKE ME WITH YOU...

DIDN'T WE SWEAR TO ALWAYS BE TOGETHER...?

BUT WHY...?

IT WAS SO FAST AND SO SUDDEN...

YOU'VE LEFT ME ALONE IN THIS FOREIGN COUNTRY...

SLEEP

FALL

LILAC...

THIS IS THE FLOWER THAT WAS BLOOMING THE FIRST TIME I CAME HERE TO RONSPERG WITH HEINRICH.

WHILE HE'S GONE...?

HE'S GONE ALREADY

SMASH

SMASH

WHY DO I STILL LIVE?

OH, LILAC... WHY DO YOU STILL BLOOM?

BECAUSE I AM A BIRD WHO HAS NO SKY N WHICH TO FLY

FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE, I WILL NEVER AGAIN ADMIRE THE BEAUTY OF THIS FLOWER

BECAUSE I AM A FLOWER WHO HAS NO SOIL N WHICH TO GROW!

AAH

AAH

MYSCAN

CREDITS

Scanner: Nikkou
Translator: meifeng
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Barcarolle

SOME NOTES ABOUT THIS MANGA

Count Heinrich von Coudenhove-Kalergi and his wife mitsuko

This manga is actually based on a real story Mitsuko Aoyama (7 July 1874 – Tokyo – 27 August 1941 – Vienna), also known by her married name of Mitsuko Coudenhove-Kalergi, was one of the first Japanese people to emigrate to Europe, after becoming the wife of an Austrian diplomat in Tokyo. Almost five years later they moved to Austria, where their family would grow to include seven children. The Count's choice of an Asian bride caused quite a scandal in Europe at the time, and she suffered considerable prejudice throughout her life. Following Heinrich's death in 1906, Mitsuko stayed in Vienna to provide the best opportunities possible for their children. Their second son, Richard Nikolaus, became the founder of the first movement for a unified Europe, editing the "Paneuropa" journal and publishing a manifesto of the same name. Mitsuko is therefore sometimes referred to as "the mother of European unification." She remained in Vienna even through anti-Japanese sentiments during the First World War and until her own death in 1941.

Count Richard Nikolaus Eijiro von Coudenhove-Kalergi

Mitsuko inspired Jacques Guerlain to create a perfume called "Mitsouko" in 1919

CHAPTER 3 AT THE BANK OF THE DANUBE

EVEN NOW HIS CASTLE DOES NOT CHANGE

EVER SINCE I CAME HERE, AND EVEN LONG BEFORE THAT, THIS CASTLE HAS NEVER CHANGED!

HEINRICH!

WHERE IS HEINRICH?

HEINRICH!

THE WINDOW WHERE HE USED TO WAVE AND SAY 'GOOD MORNING' TO ME.

...

THE DOOR HE WOULD COME THROUGH TO SHOW OFF WHAT HE'D CAUGHT.

THE FIRST CATCH FOR YOU, MY LADY

THE CHAIR HE WOULD SIT IN TO WATCH THE SUN SET.

EVEN THOUGH!.. EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE NOT HERE...!

IN THE FUTURE, THE SPRING WILL STILL BE BEAUTIFUL, AND THE AUTUMN WILL STILL BE UNFORGETTABLE.

RONSPERG HAS NOT CHANGED A BIT.

THE FLOWERS IN THE GARDEN WILL STILL BLOOM IN ABUNDANCE.

THESE ARE THE PRINCE'S DIARIES.

DO YOU WISH FOR ME TO DO THAT?

HE ORDERED ME TO BURN THEM, BUT..

WHAT SHALL I DO WITH THESE?

MADAME,

THERE ARE SO MANY MEMORIES IN THOSE DIARIES.

HEINRICH'S DIARIES.

THE PROOF OF HIS LOVE FOR ME.

FOR THAT WAS HIS LAST WISH.

BURN THEM.

BUT...

IT WOULD BE SO SAD TO BURN THEM ALL.

EVERYTHING WOULD BE TAKEN AWAY FROM ME.

THE RECORD OF OUR LOVE...

OUR HAPPY LIFE TOGETHER. IT WAS SO SWEET, AND YET SO SHORT.

THEY'RE BURNED NOW.

WE'RE LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE ENJOYING THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SEASON IN RONSPERG.

WHAT IS THAT FLOWER CALLED? IT IS SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PURPLE.

AH. THAT'S LILAC!

CUT THEM DOWN!

I ORDER YOU!

YES, MY LADY?

JOHAN! JOHAN!

WHAT...?

THE LILAC TREES IN THE GARDEN... CUT THEM ALL DOWN. NOW!

BUT... THE LILAC TREES WERE VERY DEAR TO PRINCE HEINRICH.

MY- MY LADY!

IF YOU WILL NOT DO IT, THEN I SHALL!

FALL

IT'S ALL OVER

FALL

IT'S DONE NOW.

CHOP CHOP CHOP

OH, MY...

MY LADY!

CHOP

MOTHER!

MOTHER!

MY LADY!

EVERYTHING...

AH, DEAR...
MY DEAR...

I CAN'T KEEP UP.

WAIT

DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND.

AH... WHY IS MY BODY SO HEAVY...?

IT FEELS AS THOUGH THERE'S AN IRON ON TOP OF ME.

ERNST...

IT WAS SO UNLIKE YOU.

THE LILAC TREES... WHY DID YOU DO THAT?

HEINRICH'S FAVORITE FLOWER... I DON'T WANT TO SEE IT

FROM NOW ON, I HAVE TO LIVE ON MY OWN.

I OBJECT TO THAT, MY LADY!

YOU SHOULD STAY HERE AND CONTINUE TO RULE OVER THE PRINCE'S TERRITORY.

YES.

UNCLE SAYS IT'S BEST IF I RETURN TO JAPAN, RATHER THAN LIVE BY MYSELF IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY LIKE THIS.

I HEARD...

YOU ARE PLANNING TO RETURN TO JAPAN?

SIR...

WHEN WILL YOU BE DONE WEEPING?

MY LADY, HAVE YOUR BRAVERY AND CONFIDENCE GONE?

DID THEY DIE WITH THE PRINCE?

THAT... I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO THAT

I FEEL PATHETIC, LIVING IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY WITHOUT HEINRICH.

IT IS BETTER FOR YOU TO CONSIDER WHAT YOU WILL DO.

WHAT SORT OF QUESTION IS THAT?

THE CHILDREN!

IF YOU RETURN TO JAPAN, THEN YOUR CHILDREN WILL FALL INTO THE CARE OF SERVANTS.

THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SERVANTS WILL USE YOUR CHILDREN FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES.

KNOWING THAT, CAN YOU STILL ABANDON YOUR CHILDREN AND RETURN TO JAPAN!?

IF I RETURN TO JAPAN, THE CHILDREN WILL NOT ONLY HAVE LOST THEIR FATHER, THEY WILL LOSE THEIR MOTHER.

AH... AH...

HOW COULD I FORGET?

AND LEAVE MY LITTLE BIRDS IN THE WAKE OF A HUGE STORM...!

AND HERE I HAD JUST PLANNED TO DO AS UNCLE SAID...

SIR...

HAVE STRENGTH, MY LADY...

YOU ARE THE PRINCE'S LADY. AND THE MOTHER OF YOUR CHILDREN.

THAT MEANS THERE IS ONLY ONE THING FOR YOU TO DO.

HEINRICH LEFT SUCH A FOOLISH WILL.

IT IS REASONABLE FOR THE ELDEST SON TO RULE OVER RONSPERG. BUT HOW COULD WE ALLOW MITSUKO TO TAKE THE TERRITORY?

MITSUKO IS STILL YOUNG. AND SHE IS A WOMAN. HOW COULD SHE RULE THIS HUGE TERRITORY BY HERSELF?

SHE'S SUCH A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY. IF SHE WERE TO REMARRY, THE TERRITORY WOULD GO TO A STRANGER!

THINK OF THE RUMORS!

BESIDES, SHE IS A JAPANESE, WHO KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT EUROPE...

HUSH!

SHALL WE START THE DISCUSSION?

ALL RIGHT

WE HAVE ALL GATHERED NOW

WHY NOT RETURN TO JAPAN, TO YOUR PARENTS?

MITSUKO, YOU ARE STILL YOUNG. INSTEAD OF LIVING A SAD LIFE WITHOUT HEINRICH...

SO DO I.

I AGREE COMPLETELY.

NO.

ANY OBJECTIONS?

ANYONE?

OF COURSE, WE WILL GIVE YOU SOME PROPERTIES. SO YOU MAY LIVE WELL.

AND AS FOR YOUR CHILDREN, WE SHALL ASSIGN RELATIVES TO TAKE CARE OF THEM.

HMMM...

OH, I MISS JAPAN SO MUCH, BUT...

WHAT SAY YOU, MITSUKO?

CHATTER CHATTER

I OBJECT.

I...

AND YET YOU OBJECT?

MITSUKO... I HAVE OFFERED YOU THE BEST OPTION.

UNCLE... I THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

BUT...

I WOULD CONSIDER IT A BETRAYAL...

IF I IGNORE THE WILL THAT MY HUSBAND LEFT TO ME...

OF THE LOVE THAT HE HAD FOR ME.

DO YOU REALIZE THAT?

HOW GREEDY!

THEN YOU WILL TAKE ALL THE PROPERTIES FOR YOURSELF?

B- BUT AREN'T THREE TERRITORIES TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO HANDLE BY YOURSELF?

YOU COULD AT LEAST GIVE ONE OF THEM TO SOMEONE YOU TRUST

I CAN LEARN IT.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING ABOUT THE ECONOMIC CONDITION OF EUROPE.

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO IT, MITSUKO?

THEY ARE WHAT MY HUSBAND LEFT TO ME AND ME ALONE!

I WILL NOT GIVE A SINGLE ONE OF THOSE TERRITORIES TO ANYONE!

THAT'S TRUE.

TH- THEN WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN? YOU CANNOT RAISE SEVEN CHILDREN AND MANAGE THREE TERRITORIES AT THE SAME TIME.

TO NOT ONLY BE THEIR MOTHER. BUT THEIR FATHER AS WELL.

I WILL DO MY BEST...

JUST AS HEINRICH ORDERED IN HIS WILL.

HANS WILL RULE THIS CASTLE.

AND ALL THE TERRITORIES THAT THE PRINCE LEFT TO ME...

WILL BE CARED FOR BY MYSELF!

WHAT A STUBBORN WOMAN!

UGH...

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR EVERYTHING.

HA! SHE SAYS SHE ONLY WANTS TO DO WHAT HER HUSBAND WISHED. BUT I'M SURE SHE JUST WANTS ALL THE PROPERTIES FOR HERSELF.

LADY MITSUKO HAS CHANGED.

VERY WELL. IF THAT'S WHAT YOU HAVE DECIDED, MITSUKO. THEN PLEASE DO AS YOU WISH.

BUT IF YOU CANNOT HANDLE IT, YOU WILL FOLLOW MY PLAN INSTEAD.

GIVE ME CONFIDENCE

HEINRICH...

BECAUSE FROM TODAY ON, I AM ON MY OWN...!

I MUST BE STRONG!

EVERYONE MUST THINK THAT I AM A STUBBORN WOMAN.

LET THEM THINK THAT

IN THE END, YOU DID JUST AS I EXPECTED, MY LADY.

I ONLY WANTED YOU TO BE STRONG. I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT I MUST HAVE HURT YOUR FEELINGS.

FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT I SAID EARLIER.

FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

AS YOUR BEST FRIEND.

IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO,

I WILL HELP YOU IN ANY WAY I CAN.

IN FACT, I MUST THANK YOU FOR THIS.

PLEASE, DO NOT APOLO-GIZE.

THANK YOU, ERNST

FROM NOW ON, I WILL NEVER LOOK BACK.

AND I WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE IN THIS WAY FROM NOW ON.

UNTIL NOW I HAVE LIVED THE LIFE I CHOSE MYSELF, AND FACED IT WITH COURAGE.

WATCH OVER ME, HEINRICH...

YOUR MOTHER IS VERY BUSY.

IT'S NO FUN THAT MOTHER DOESN'T TELL US A STORY BEFORE BED.

GOOD NIGHT, MOTHER!

GOOD NIGHT.

THERE WAS A LOT TO LEARN.

FOR MITSUKO, WHO HAD TO MANAGE THREE HUGE TERRITORIES BY HERSELF...

MOST OF THE TIME, SHE FELL ASLEEP WITH BOOKS AT HER SIDE.

LAW, MANAGEMENT, AND AGRICULTURE.

OH, THIS...!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS... AND THIS...

BUT TO THE SURPRISE OF PEOPLE AROUND HER,

MITSUKO LEARNED IT ALL IN ONLY THREE MONTHS.

I USED TO THINK SHE WAS A SWEET YOUNG LADY.

BUT IN FACT, SHE'S QUITE STUBBORN!

HAS SHE COME YET?

SHE'S NEARLY HERE... I CAN SEE HER COMING.

YOU NEED TO PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE FARMERS.

IF THEY WILL NOT LOOK YOU IN THE EYE. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THEY ARE LYING TO YOU.

I UNDER-STAND.

WE'D BETTER NOT TELL HER ANY LIES!

HA HA HA

THERE'S NOTHING THAT SHE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT US FARMERS.

SHE CAN SOLVE ANY PROBLEM.

BUT SHE IS SO AMAZING.

GOOD MORNING, MY LADY.

GOOD MORNING.

GOOD MORNING.

THERE SHE IS.

SHE'S COMING!

LOOK AT HER BEAUTY!

SHE'S LIKE AN ELEGANT QUEEN.

AN AMAZING LANDLADY. AND SHE'S ALSO BEAUTIFUL.

WE ARE SO HAPPY TO WORK UNDER HER AUTHORITY.

I'M GLAD THAT THERE IS NOTHING WRONG.

I HAVE YOU TO THANK, ERNST.

I'M SURE THAT HEINRICH IS HAPPY TOO.

LET'S GO TO THE NORTHERN AREA.

TURN THE CARRIAGE AROUND.

MITSUKO WAS NOT ONLY A SKILLFUL LANDLADY, SHE WAS ALSO A STRICT MOTHER.

SHE PREPARED THE BEST MAIDS FOR EACH OF HER CHILDREN, AND ALL HER SONS SUCCESSFULLY ENTERED PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOLS.

WHEN CAN I FINISH STUDYING?

WHEN YOU BECOME A GREAT YOUNG MAN. LIKE YOUR FATHER.

YOU CAN'T ANSWER SUCH AN EASY QUESTION?

PLEASE TRY AGAIN.

AS A LAND-LADY AND A MOTHER,

MITSUKO WAS VERY BUSY.

WHAT'S WRONG, IDA?

COME ON. COME TO MOMMY!

THE SCHEDULE OF LEARNING ONE DAY AHEAD OF THE CHILDREN CONTINUED.

OH!

I THINK SHE CAN'T REMEMBER YOUR FACE, BECAUSE MY LADY HAS BEEN SO BUSY.

Hate

LITTLE MISS OLGA HAS CAUGHT A COLD.

WHAT!?

MY LADY...

OLGA...

MOTHER.

MOTHER!

WHAT IS IT? I AM READY TO LEAVE.

MY LADY, PLEASE STAY WITH HER...

SHE FEELS LONELY BECAUSE SHE SO RARELY SEES HER MOTHER.

MOTHER... DON'T GO...

MY LADY, THE CARRIAGE IS READY.

...

IS THIS VERY IMPORTANT BUSINESS?

YOUR DAUGHTER NEEDS YOU.

RATTLE

WAAH

Ah... Mother...

I'M GOING...

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF OLGA.

MY LADY!

NEEDS YOU...

YOUR DAUGHTER NEEDS YOU.

I'M SORRY... OLGA...

RESPECTED BY THE CITIZENS. BUT A STRANGER TO MY OWN CHILDREN.

I AM A FAILURE AS A MOTHER.

I KNOW THAT

NO MATTER WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT YOU. YOU HAVE THE PUREST HEART OF ANYONE I'VE EVER MET.

BESIDES...

WHEN THEY GROW UP. THEY WILL EVENTUALLY UNDERSTAND YOUR SITUATION.

USUALLY, I AM OVER-WHELMED BY ALL THE WORK.

TODAY, TIME PASSES VERY SLOWLY.

IF YOU SAY SO. I AM SO GLAD, ERNST.

WHEN I'M WITH YOU, ERNST, I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE RETURNED TO THAT TIME.

AS THERE WAS NO DOUBT, ONLY LOVE.

I USED TO HAVE A HAPPY LIFE,

EVERYTHING...

THE SOUND OF THE WIND,

THE SMELL OF THE GRASS,

THE FEELINGS I'VE HAD...

FOR YEARS, EVER SINCE I MET YOU FOR THE FIRST TIME...

YOU NEVER KNEW.

MITSUKO..

I CAN ONLY DO THIS.

FOR YEARS, MY FORBIDDEN FEELINGS FOR YOU...

GOD, PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

STOVE

HE.N...RICH...?

FORGIVE ME,
MY LADY...

I NEVER REALIZED IT

ERNST...

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

I ALWAYS FELT LONELY AFTER HEINRICH'S DEATH...

I KNEW IT!

NO!

I KNEW IT.

AAH!

FORGIVE ME, HEINRICH. I...

BUT SUDDENLY, THE FACE OF HEINRICH IS BEING REPLACED BY ERNST'S.

ERNST HAS SPOILED ME, HELPED AND PROTECTED ME.

TEAHOUSE

I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!

OH?

GIVE ME ANOTHER ONE.

IT WON'T BE ANY GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH.

LET HIM DRINK.

MR. ERNST, YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK!

SHUT UP!

SIGH

THE MORE I DRINK, THE MORE I REALIZE WHO I AM...

I GET IT.

YOU'RE EXPERIENCING A BROKEN HEART.

JUST SHUT UP!

A MAN WITH NEITHER STATUS, NOR HONOR, NOR ANYTHING ELSE.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

FRANZ ERNST.

FINE.

GIVE ME MORE!

A BROKEN HEART...

HELLO, LADY COUDENHOVE.

GOOD AFTERNOON.

GOOD AFTERNOON, LADY MITSUKO.

THE FACT IS... THERE'S A RUMOR GOING AROUND ABOUT YOU.

I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT. BUT...

I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, MY LADY. BUT...

IT'S NOT USUALLY LIKE THIS

WHAT IS THIS?

CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER

ERNST AND

HOW COULD SUCH A THING...

MY LADY MAY REMARRY IF SHE SO WISHES...

BUT IF NOT. THEN IT'S BEST TO STAY AWAY FROM ANY MAN WHO TRIES TO GET CLOSE TO YOU.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'LL LOSE MY FRIEND LIKE THIS.

THE ONLY FRIEND I'VE KEPT SINCE MY HUSBAND DIED.

MR. ERNST HAS COME TO VISIT

MY LADY...

MY LADY...

I'VE COME... TO SAY GOODBYE.

TODAY...

I WAS INVITED TO BECOME A PROFESSOR AT AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY.

I PLAN TO LEAVE TOMORROW

THAT CANNOT BE! IT'S TOO FAST.

IS IT BECAUSE OF THE RUMOR ABOUT ME?

IT IS HARD FOR ME TO LEAVE YOU BEHIND...

BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO STAY NEAR YOU ANY LONGER.

BECAUSE I LOVE YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

IT'S BECAUSE I LOVE YOU THAT I MUST STAY AWAY FROM YOU.

THIS IS HOW I EXPRESS MY LOVE.

AM I WILLING...?

ALL MY WORRIES...

AM I WILLING TO LOSE MY DIGNITY...?

AM I WILLING TO GIVE MYSELF TO THIS MAN...?

WITH THIS MAN BY MY SIDE, I CAN FACE ALL MY TROUBLES...

I CAN'T!

I CANNOT SIMPLY TURN AWAY FROM IT NOW.

I LOVED ONLY HEINRICH. I SACRIFICED EVERYTHING FOR THAT LOVE.

I'M SORRY... ERNST...

I...

I LOVE YOU BECAUSE I KNOW THAT

I KNOW THAT...

FOR EVEN WE ARE APART...

BUT FORGIVE ME.

GOODBYE, MY LADY...

FOREVER

ERNST...

GOODBYE, MY LADY!

I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU. YOU WILL BE THE ONLY WOMAN IN MY HEART.

I WILL PRAY FOR YOUR HAPPINESS.

MY BLACK HA RED MADONNA.

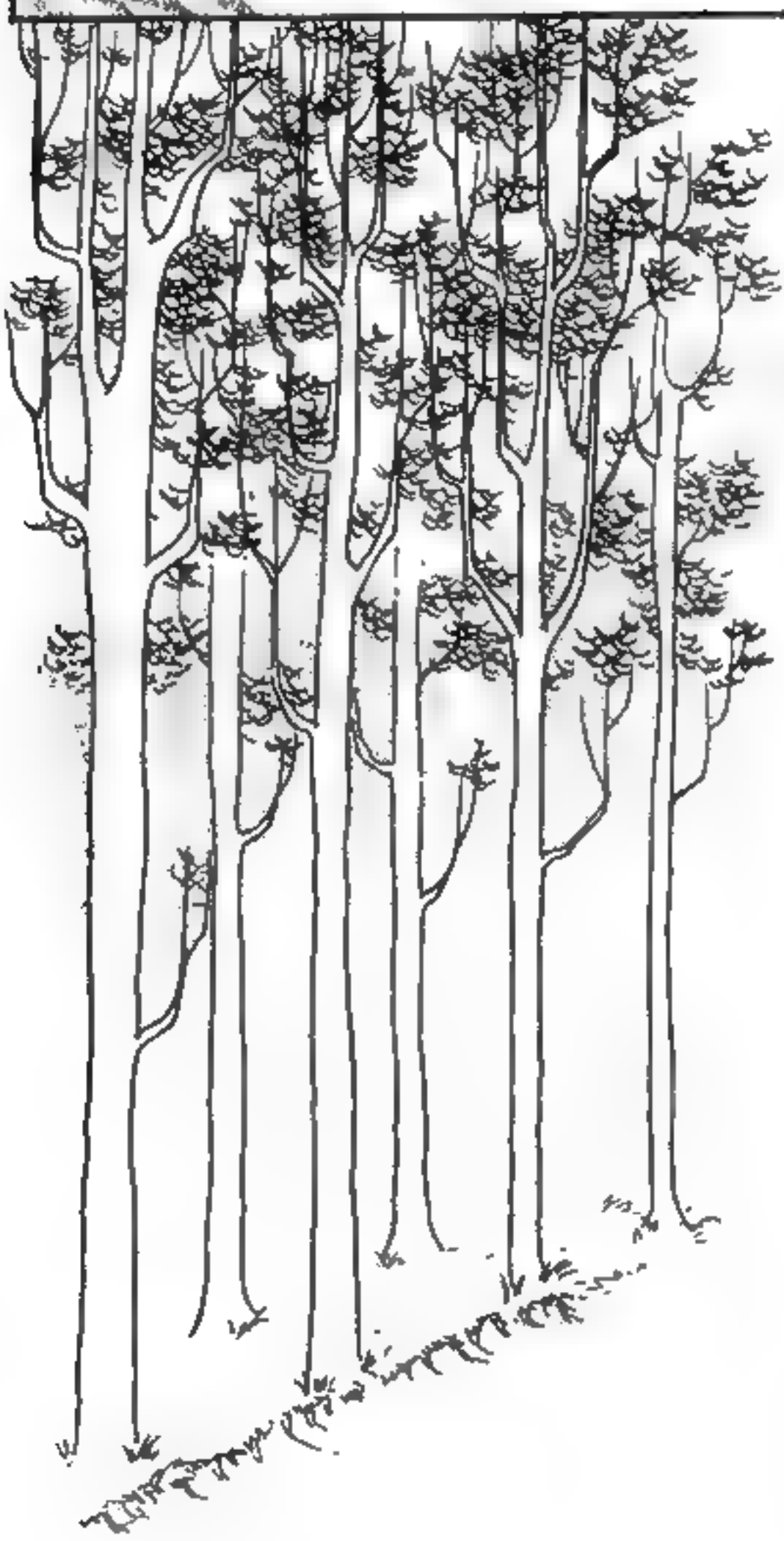
GOOD-BYE, MITSU-KO...

THAT WAS THE ONLY LOVE THAT MITSUKO EXPERIENCED AFTER HEINRICH'S DEATH.

BUT NOW,
THAT LOVE...

WAS BURIED DEEP WITHIN
MITSUKO'S HEART, WITH
NO CHANCE OF ESCAPE.

TIME PASSED QUICKLY,
LEAVING NO IMPRESSION.



AND MY FATHER TOLD ME THAT SHE IS ALSO VERY SMART.

YOUR MOTHER IS SO PRETTY, ELISABETH.

HANS AND RICHARD WERE ACCEPTED TO VIENNA UNIVERSITY.

SO THEY MOVED AWAY, TO THE REGION NEAR THE DANUBE RIVER IN VIENNA.

MAYBE...

BUT SHE ISN'T A GOOD MOTHER.

SHE'S NEVER AT HOME.

CONGRAT-ULATIONS, BROTHER.

THANK YOU.

CONGRATULATIONS, RICHARD! YOU'RE A STUDENT OF THE THERESIANUM* SCHOOL NOW!

MOTHER SAID THAT EDUCATION ISN'T IMPORTANT FOR WOMEN, SO SHE ONLY TAUGHT US TO SEW AND COOK.

WHAT'S WRONG, ELISABETH?

AH, YOU'RE SO LUCKY, BROTHER.

OKAY, OKAY.

DON'T FORGET!

YOU'RE MOTHER'S FAVORITE.

PLEASE CONVINCE HER SO I CAN ALSO ENTER THERESIANUM SCHOOL.

THAT MIGHT BE HOW IT IS IN JAPAN, BUT NOT IN EUROPE.

*Theresianum school, also known as Theresianische Akademie is a university in Vienna that specializes in international relations.

DID YOU SEE THE SIGN IN FRONT OF FOLKS THEATER?

I DID. IT STARS IDA ROLAND, CORRECT?

MOTHER...

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WATCH IT?

HOW RARE... YOU WANT TO WATCH A PLAY?

SINCE WHEN ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLAYS?

WELL, I'LL WAIT FOR YOU TOMORROW NIGHT AT SEVEN IN THE EVENING.

IT'S A DATE!

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, DO FINISH YOUR EDUCATION SOON AND FIND A GIRL. THAT WOULD BE A RELIEF FOR ME.

AS YOU ARE A PRINCE, YOU SHOULD TAKE A LADY SOON.

THAT'S IDA ROLAND.

AT THE TIME, THE NAME IDA ROLAND WAS AS FAMOUS IN VIENNA AS SARAH BERNHARDT.

I THINK SHE WAS LOOKING AT YOU.

DID YOU NOTICE, RICHARD?

AH, IDA ROLAND IS JUST AS GREAT AS EVERYONE SAYS.

SHE PLAYS THE ROLE OF A QUEEN, BUT SHE IS BETTER THAN A QUEEN.

NOT ONLY THAT...

IDA IS AN AMAZING WOMAN.

I'VE NEVER SEEN AN ACTRESS LIKE HER BEFORE.

THE PLAY WAS GOOD. THE AUDIENCE WAS CAPTIVATED BY IDA'S MAGIC.

RICHARD...?

IF YOU REALLY LIKE HER...

WHY DON'T WE INVITE HER TO DINNER SOME-TIME?

SHE CHARMED THEM.

OH. YOU TWO ALREADY KNOW EACH OTHER?

I'VE HEARD MUCH ABOUT YOU FROM PRINCE RICHARD.

PLEASED TO MEET YOU, MY LADY.

AND SHE IS SO BEAUTIFUL. LIKE A ROSE!

SHE'S A NICE GIRL. ALTHOUGH SHE'S FAMOUS. SHE ISN'T ARROGANT...

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IDA?

MR. RICHARD LOOKS SO HAPPY.

SO HIS MOTHER APPROVES OF HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH IDA AFTER ALL.

DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHY WOULD I LIE?

WHAT SHOULD I SAY...?

OOPS. I THOUGHT YOU KNEW ALREADY.

PRINCE RICHARD AND IDA ROLAND ARE VIENNA'S MOST FAMOUS COUPLE THESE DAYS.

A FEW DAYS AGO, I SAW THEM DANCING PASSIONATELY TOGETHER AT THE MASKED BALL AT THE FOLKS THEATER.

APPROVE? RICHARD AND IDA?

WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

NOT ONLY THAT, IDA IS AN AMAZING WOMAN.

RICHARD AND IDA... A COUPLE?

ONLY I, HIS OWN MOTHER, KNEW NOTHING OF IT.

RICHARD AND IDA...

HAHA. THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. RICHARD IS ONLY 19 YEARS OLD...

BESIDES, SHE IS OLDER THAN HE IS. AND I'VE HEARD THAT SHE HAS BEEN MARRIED BEFORE.

IT'S TRUE...

I WAS PLAN-NING TO TELL YOU SOON.

I WANT TO...

MARRY HER.

RICHARD...!

BECAUSE I KNEW...

YOU WOULD NEVER GIVE ME PERMIS-SION TO DO IT

WH- WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK ME FIRST?

SHE'S OLDER THAN YOU. AND I HEAR SHE'S JEWISH.

OF COURSE I WOULDN'T!

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND. RICHARD?

BUT WE LOVE EACH OTHER.

WHAT WOULD YOUR FATHER SAY?

I WON'T LET YOU!

RICHARD!

I'M SURE FATHER WOULD APPROVE.

HE MARRIED YOU, AND YOU WERE NOT FROM A NOBLE FAMILY. YOU WERE A COMMONER.

I WILL NEVER LET YOU MARRY HER!

I HEARD YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH FATHER IN JAPAN WHEN YOU WERE 18 YEARS OLD.

TOO YOUNG!?

PLEASE RECONSIDER, RICHARD!

YOU ARE STILL TOO YOUNG! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

LOOK AT YOURSELF, MOTHER.

ELISABETH...

WHAT A COLD MOTHER...

DON'T, RICHARD!

PLEASE WAIT!

AT FIRST, I THOUGHT YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND...

BUT...

GOODBYE, MOTHER. I WILL LEAVE THIS HOUSE AND MARRY IDA.

YOU WON'T ALLOW ME TO ENTER A UNIVERSITY

I WANT TO LEARN MORE.

I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR DOLL!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

LEAVING THIS HOUSE. I'M GOING TO FIND SOMEWHERE ELSE TO LIVE.

MOTHER!

PLEASE LOCK ELISABETH IN HER ROOM!

HOW DARE YOU SAY SUCH A THING! FIRST RICHARD, NOW YOU...!

BURN

YOU'RE SUCH A TYRANT! YOU NEVER WANT TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT US.

THAT'S WHY RICHARD...

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?

WHAT DO YOU KNOW...?

MOTHER...

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

WHY DID I CHOOSE TO MANAGE THE TERRITORIES AFTER HEINRICH'S DEATH?

WASN'T IT FOR MY CHILDREN?

PLEASE HELP ME...

DEAR, DEAR...

AH... AH... I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

RICHARD IS MY BELOVED SON...

I'M ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT ELISABETH'S HEALTH...

MOTHER! BROTHER AND IDA ARE GETTING MARRIED IN MUNICH.

WHY MUST THE CHILDREN BETRAY ME LIKE THIS?

DON'T YOU KNOW THAT BROTHER WROTE A PAPER CALLED "PAN-EUROPA"?

MOTHER ...

"PAN-EUROPA"?

I DON'T APPROVE.

RIP RIP

MOTHER!

AND EVENTUALLY ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD AS WELL.

YES. ALL THE COUNTRIES IN EUROPE NEED TO COME TOGETHER...

RICHARD..?

RICHARD ...

BECAUSE HIS FATHER IS FROM AUSTRIA AND HIS MOTHER IS FROM JAPAN.

MOTHER, BROTHER CAN THINK THAT WAY...

THAT'S WHY HE CAN HAVE THOSE IDEAS.

DEAR... I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ANYMORE...

DEAR...?

MITSUKO. LOOK AT DANUBE RIVER...

THE DANUBE RIVER...

UNTIL ONE DAY, THEY ALL REACH THE SEA.

FLOWING AND MEETING OTHER TRICKLES.

THAT LITTLE TRICKLE KEEPS FLOWING AND FLOWING.

WITHOUT HESITA-TION...

THIS HUGE RIVER STARTED AS A SMALL TRICKLE OF WATER IN A MOUNTAIN.

THINK ABOUT IT, MITSUKO.

IT'S THE SAME WITH HUMAN LIFE.

WAS BORN ONE COLD MORNING.

OUR TRICKLE...

THAT MORNING, I LET MYSELF DROWN IN THAT UNPREDICTABLE THING CALLED DESTINY.

BUT FOR MY LOVE, I WAS FORCED TO MOVE ON..

AND KEEP GOING.

THEY HAVE JOINED OUR RIVER...

NOT JUST RICHARD AND ELISABETH, BUT THE OTHER CHILDREN AS WELL.

IT'S TRUE.

AH, DEAR, DEAR...

I'VE FINALLY REALIZED...

FLOWING ALONG THE PATH OF LOVE...

I NEVER DID BEFORE.

TO REACH THE SEA THAT IS THE R FUTURE...

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, DEAR?

IS THAT TRUE, MOTHER? YOU WANT TO FORGIVE BROTHER?

IF YOU WANT TO ENTER THE UNIVERSITY, PLEASE GO AHEAD.

MOTHER...

ELISABETH ...

DON'T STOP! YOU MUST CONTINUE MOVING FORWARD.

I ONLY HAVE THESE WORDS FOR YOU.

BECAUSE I'M YOUR DAUGHTER.

DON'T WORRY...

THROUGHOUT MY LIFE, MY LITTLE RIVER HAS MET UP WITH MANY OTHERS.

AND IT HAS GROWN LARGER AND LARGER...

THE WATER CONTINUES TO FLOW, BUT THE ERA HAS CHANGED.

AND THIS LOVE CAN ALSO CHANGE.

I AM...

YOUR DAUGHTER...

AND NOURISH THE GROUND SO THAT PLANTS MAY GROW...

AND IT WILL CONTINUE TO GROW...

AND FLOW-ING...

KEEP FLOWING...

UNTIL THAT DAY.

AND SOMEDAY, I WILL REACH THE SEA...

IT WAS IN AUGUST, 1941,

AND HER LONG JOURNEY, THAT HAD LASTED UNTIL THE WORLD WAR II, ENDED.

THE LADY WHO WAS BORN WITH A STAR IN HER HAND...

RESTS IN PEACE IN THE CITY OF VIENNA.

AFTER THE DEATH OF HER HUSBAND, SHE RAISED HER SEVEN CHILDREN, RULED OVER THREE TERRITORIES, AND MOVED TO VIENNA.

MITSUKO AOYAMA, WHO WAS BORN IN THE EARLY MEIJI ERA IN AN ANTIQUE STORE IN TOKYO, MARRIED AN AUSTRIAN PRINCE.

MITSUKO COUDENHOVE KALERGI.

HER CHRISTIAN NAME WAS MARIA THEKLA...

A LIFE THAT WAS LED BY LOVE.

Maria Thekla Mitsu Coudenhove Kalergi

THE END